PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

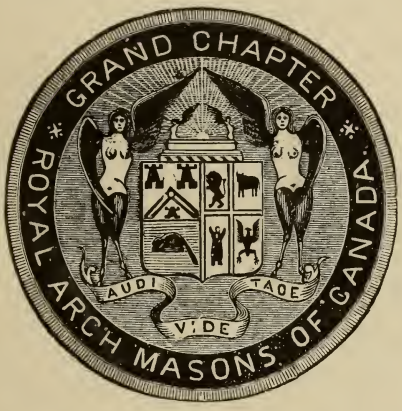
GRAND CHAPTER

OF

ROYAL ARCH MASONS

OF CANADA

AT THE FORTY-FIRST ANNUAL CONVOCATION

1899 

1899

HELD IN THE MASONIC HALL, CITY OF STRATFORD

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25, A.D. 1899
A I. 2429, A L. 5899

ORDERED TO BE READ IN ALL CHAPTERS AND PRESERVED

TORONTO:
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1899

Grand Chapter of Canada.

PROCEEDINGS.

FORTY-FIRST ANNUAL CONVOCATION OF THE GRAND CHAPTER OF ROYAL ARCH MASONS OF CANADA, HELD IN THE MASONIC HALL, CITY OF STRATFORD, ON WEDNESDAY, THE 25TH JANUARY, A.D. 1899, A.I. 2429.

PRESENT.

M. E. Comp.	M. Walsh	Grand Z.	} Grand Council on The Throne.
R. " "	W. G. Reid	Grand H.	
M. " "	J. J. Mason	as Grand J.	
R. " "	Geo. J. Bennett	Grand Scribe E.	
R. " "	W. J. Robertson	Grand Scribe N.	
R. " "	Samuel Dubber	Grand Principal Sojourner.	
M. " "	R. B. Hungerford	as Grand Treasurer.	
R. " "	R. W. Hull	Grand Registrar.	
"	Albert Pain	as Grand 1st Asst. Sojourner.	
" "	W. A. Buchner	as Grand 2nd Asst. Sojourner.	
R. " "	James B. Nixon	Grand Lecturer.	
V. " "	J. C. Morgan	as Grand Sword Bearer.	
" "	R. C. Cheesewright	as Grand Master of 1st Veil.	
" "	John Taylor	Grand Master of 2nd Veil.	
" "	J. P. Boles	as Grand Master of 3rd Veil.	
" "	Thos. Hills	as Grand Master of 4th Veil.	
" "	D. Robertson	as Grand Standard Bearer.	
" "	W. A. Butler	as Grand Dir. of Ceremonies.	
" "	F. Blackburne	as Grand Organist.	
R. " "	J. W. Hickson	as Grand Pursuivant.	
" "	J. Whitton	as Grand Steward.	
" "	F. Read	as Grand Steward.	
" "	J. W. Jones	as Grand Steward.	
" "	J. G. Constable	as Grand Steward.	
"	Alex. Hebbin	Grand Janitor.	

GRAND SUPERINTENDENTS.

R. E. Comp.	J. W. Butler, London	London District,	No.	2
" "	W. Partlo, Ingersoll	Wilson "	"	3
" "	R. G. W. Conolly, Dunnville	Niagara "	"	7
" "	N. T. Lyon, Toronto	Toronto "	"	8
" "	A. E. Henry, Oshawa	Ontario "	"	10
" "	C. G. Wensley, Campbellford	Pr. Edward "	"	11
" "	David Barr, Renfrew	Ottawa "	"	13

GRAND REPRESENTATIVES.

R.	E. Comp.	C. A. Humber, Goderich	Arizona.
R.	" "	A. Shaw, Kingston	Connecticut.
M.	" "	R. B. Hungerford, London	Georgia.
R.	" "	W. Forbes, Grimsby	Illinois.
R.	" "	Geo. Waugh, Stratford	Indiana.
R.	" "	D. H. Martyn, Kincardine	Indian Territory.
R.	" "	B. Allen, Toronto	Maine.
R.	" "	W. Gibson, Beamsville	Missouri.
M.	" "	J. Ross Robertson, Toronto	Nebraska.
M.	" "	J. J. Mason, Hamilton	Nevada.
R.	" "	D. F. MacWatt, Barrie	Quebec.
M.	" "	M. Walsh, Ingersoll	Rhode Island.
R.	" "	J. B. Nixon, Toronto	Vermont.
R.	" "	Alexander Patterson, Toronto	Virginia.

A constitutional number of Chapters being represented by their qualified officers, the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Canada was opened in Ample Form at 2 p.m.

R. E. Comp. William Roaf, from the Committee on Credentials of Representatives, reported that there are 95 warranted Chapters and 1 U. D. on the roll of Grand Chapter, of which number 59 were represented by the following Companions :

No. 1. *Ancient Frontenac and Cataraqui, Kingston.*

R. E. Comp. A. Shaw, P.Z. and Proxy.

No. 2. *The Hiram, Hamilton.*

E. Comps Fred. Walter, P.Z., Geo. Moore, H., F. Staunton, P.Z.

No. 3. *St. John's, London.*

E. Comp. J. D. Balfour, P.Z. and Proxy.

St. Andrew's and St. John's, Toronto.

E. Comp. J. W. Jones, P.Z. and Proxy, E. Comp. Thos. Hills, P.Z.

No. 5. *St. George's, London.*

M. Ex. Comp. R. B. Hungerford, P.G.Z. R. Ex. Comp. J. W. Butler, P.Z., Ex. Comp. W. A. Butler, J.

No. 6. *St Johns, Hamilton.*

R. Ex. Comps. W. G. Reid, W. Birrell, M. Ex. Comp. J. J. Mason, R. Ex. Comps. W. Forbes, J. Malloy, Wm. Gibson, Ex. Comps. W. J. McAllister, A. Payne, W. Teale, P.Z.'s, J. J. Wilson, H.

No. 7. *Moira, Belleville.*
E. Comp G. Dulmage, Z.

No. 8. *King Solomon's, Toronto.*
M. E. Comps. J. Ross Robertson, R. E. Comps. J. B. Nixon, Alex. Patterson, N. T. Lyon.

No. 18. *Oxford, Woodstock.*
Ex. Comp. R. W. Moot, Z.

No. 19. *Mount Moriah, St. Catharines.*
R. E. Comp. Geo. Burch, P.Z.

No. 22. *Grenville, Prescott.*
R. E. Comp. A. Shaw, Proxy.

No. 23. *Ezra, Simcoe.*
E. Comps. Frank Read, Z., J. G. Bottomley, H.

No. 24. *Tecumseh, Stratford.*
R. Ex. Comp. G. Waugh, Ex. Comps. J. R. Stewart, J. C. Sannegan, and J. A. Macfadden, P.Z's.

No. 27. *Manitou, Collingwood.*
R. Ex. Comp. W. T. Toner, P.Z., and Proxy.

No. 28. *Pentalpha, Oshawa.*
R. Ex. Comp. A. E. Henry, P.Z. and Proxy, L. K. Murton, P.Z.

No. 29. *McCallum, Dunnville.*
R. Ex. Comp. R. G. W. Connolly, P. Z., John Taylor, P.Z. and Proxy.

No. 30. *Huron, Goderich.*
R. E. Comp. C. A. Humber, P.Z.

No. 31. *Prince Edward, Picton.*
Ex. Comp. J. H. Golden, H.

No. 34. *Signet, Barrie.*
R. Ex. Comp. D. F. MacWatt, P.Z. and Proxy, V. E. Comp. J. C. Morgan, P.Z.

No. 37. *Victoria, Port Hope.*
R. E Comps. W. J. Robertson, J. W. Sinclair, W. G. Coulter, V. E. Comp. Dr. Might, R. C. Smith, Jas. Evans, G Reading, T. Long, R. A. Mulholland, P.Z's., E. Comp. E. J. W. Burton, Z.

No. 40. *Guelph, Guelph.*
R. E. Comp. R. Mahony, P.Z.

No. 41. *Harris, Ingersoll.*
M. Ex. Comp. M. Walsh, P.Z., R. Ex. Comp. W. Partlo, P.Z., E. Comp. J. P. Boles, Z.

No. 45. *Excelsior, Colborne.*
Ex. Comp. J. R. Fitzgerald, P. Z. and Proxy.

No. 46. *St. James', St. Mary's.*
E. Comp. J. G. Constable, Z.

No. 48. *St. John's, Cobourg.*
R. Ex. Comps. R. J. Craig, A. R. Hargraft, P.Z's., Ex. Comp. E. H. Fogarty, Z.

No. 52. *Prince Rupert, Winnipeg, Man.*
M. Ex. Comp. J. Ross Robertson, P. Z. and Proxy, J. Leslie, P.Z.

No. 53. *Bruce, Petrolea.*
V. Ex. Comp John Sinclair, P. Z. and Proxy.

No. 54. *Palestine, St. Thomas.*
R. Ex. Comp. S. Dubber, P.Z., E. Comp. J. S Frazer, Z.

No. 57. *King Hiram, Port Colborne.*
R. E. Comp. R. G. W. Connolly, Proxy.

No. 59. *Sussex, Brockville.*
Ex. Comp. A. E. Cumming, Z.

No. 62. *York, Eglinton.*
R. Ex. Comps. W. Roaf, P.Z., R. W. Hull, P. Z. and Proxy, E. Comp. D. Robertson, P.Z.

No. 65. *St. Paul's, Toronto.*
R. Ex. Comp. B. Allen, P. Z. and Proxy.

No. 66. *The Malloch, Seaforth.*
E. Comp. R. C. Cheesewright, P. Z. and Proxy.

No. 67. *Enterprise, Harriston.*
R. Ex. Comp. R. Mahony, P. Z and Proxy.

No. 69. *Grimsby, Grimsby.*
R. E. Comps. W. Gibson and W. Forbes, P. Z's.

No. 70. *Grand River, Bracebridge.*
Ex. Comp. Jas. Whitton, P. Z.

No. 72. *Keystone, Stirling.*
R. E. Comp. C. G. Wensley, P. Z., E. Comp. J. Shaw, P. Z.

No. 73. *Erie, Ridgetown.*
R. Ex. Comp. Geo. Middleditch, P. Z.

No. 75. *St. Clair, Milton.*
M. Ex. Comp. J. J. Mason, P. Z.

No. 77. *Occident, Toronto.*
R. Ex. Comp. J. W. Hickson, P. Z.

No. 80. *Ark, Windsor.*
R. Ex. Comp. Thos. Peters, P. Z. and Proxy.

No. 82. *Shuniah, Port Arthur.*
R. E. Comp. D. F. MacWatt, Proxy.

No. 83. *Ionic, Orangeville.*
E. Comp. A. Glover, J.

No. 91. *Antiquity, Toronto.*
R. Ex. Comps. Geo. J. Bennett and W. Walker, P. Z's., E. Comp. Francis Blackburne, J.

No. 95. *Tuscan, Sudbury.*
R. E. Comp. Geo. J. Bennett, P. Z.

No. 98. *Vancouver, Vancouver.*
M. Ex. Comp. J. Ross Robertson, P. Z. and Proxy.

No. 100. *St. Lawrence, Brockville.*
Ex. Comp. E. A. Geiger, Z.

No. 103. *St. John's, North Bay.*
R. Ex. Comp. D. F. MacWatt, P. Z. and Proxy.

No. 104. *White Oak, Oakville.*
R. Ex. Comp. W. G. Reid, P. Z.

No. 105. *Signet, Winnipeg, Man.*
R. E. Comp. B. Allen, Proxy.

No. 106. *Alberta, Calgary, N. W. T.*
R. Ex. Comp. Geo J. Bennett, Proxy.

No. 110. *Warkworth, Warkworth.*
R. E. Comp. A. E Henry, Proxy.

No. 114. *Bonnechere, Renfrew.*
R. E. Comp. D. Barr, P. Z. and Proxy.

No. 117. *Berlin, Berlin.*
Ex. Comp. W. Oelschlager, P. Z. and Proxy.

No. 119. *King Cyrus, Leamington.*
Ex. Comp. G. C. Foster, P. Z.

No. 120. *Kootenay, Kaslo, B.C.*
M. Ex. Comp. R. B. Hungerford, Proxy.

Thirty-seven Chapters were not represented. No. of names registered, 92. No. of votes entitled to be cast, 238.

On motion of R. E. Comp. W. Roaf, seconded by R. E. Comp. J. W. Butler, the report of the Committee on Credentials of Representatives was received and adopted.

The M. E the Grand Z. granted permission for the admission of all Royal Arch Masons in good standing, during the sessions of Grand Chapter as visitors.

The Grand Scribe E. read the rules and regulations for the government of Grand Chapter during business The Grand Scribe E. commenced to read the minutes of the proceedings of the Fortieth Annual Convocation, held in the City of Toronto, on the 26th day of January, A.D. 1898, A.I. 2428, when it was moved by R. E. Comp W. G. Reid, seconded by M. E. Comp. J. J. Mason, and

Resolved,—That as the proceedings of the last Annual Convocation, held on the 26th day of January, 1898, have been printed, and copies thereof sent to all the Chapters under this jurisdiction, the recorded minutes be considered as read, and the same be now confirmed.

The M. Ex. Grand Z. then read the following

ADDRESS,

To the Most Excellent the Grand Chapter of Canada, Greeting:

Once more the flight of time has brought us together in Grand Convocation, and as is my duty, I proceed to give you an account of my proceedings, and what has occurred, since we met last year, in our somewhat extensive jurisdiction.

Dispensations.

I have granted Dispensations for the following purposes:

For Chapters to meet on days other than those stated in their by-Laws.

To instal Officers at other than regular Convocations.

Granite Chapter, Almonte—Corinthian, Peterborough—Maitland, North Augusta—Covenant, Cornwall—Sussex, Brockville—Tecumseh, Stratford.

By-Laws Amended.

Antiquity, Toronto—Ezra, Simcoe—Orient, Toronto—Granite, Almonte—Carleton, Ottawa—St. Andrew and St. John, Toronto—Alberta, Calgary, N. W. T.—York, Eglinton, to raise the fee to $15—Maple, Renfrew.

Officers.

To instal a Companion as H. who was not J., Mcpherson Chapter, Meaford.

To instal a Z. not H. or J., Grenville, Chapter, Prescott.

To instal as Z. one not H. or J., Waterloo Chapter, Galt.

To instal as H. one not J., Berlin Chapter, Berlin.

To instal one as H. not J., Wascana Chapter, Regina, N.W.T.

To instal as H. one not J., and to instal as Z. one not H., Bruce Chapter, Petrolea.

To instal as H. one not J., Kootenay Chapter Kaslo, B.C

To instal as Z. one not H., and as H. one not J., Tecumseh Chapter, Stratford.

Festivals.

Bruce Chapter, Petrolea, to attend Divine Service on the 24th of June last.

Midland Chapter, Lindsay, to wear regalia at Divine Service on the 24th of June last.

Special Dispensations.

In February last I received a petition from 12 Comps. of King Hiram Chapter, at Port Colborne, formally asking that their Warrant be restored to them.

Accompanying the petition was a memo. signed by eight Master Masons, saying that they wished to be admitted to this Chapter; I accordingly directed the Gd. S. E. to return the Warrant to them.

Re Ex. Comp. Chatfield.

Following the discussion of this question at last Grand Chapter, and pursuant to the report thereon, I caused an investigation to be made regarding the status of Ex. Comp. Chatfield, of St. Catharines, Ont., and the wishes of the Comps. regarding his rank. I found that he had been installed as J. and elected as Z., some years ago, but was not installed as Z., and that it was the wish of the Comps. of the Chapter that he should be confirmed in the rank of the H. and Z.

I accordingly directed a Dispensation to issue conferring on him the Past rank of H. and Z. in that Chapter.

New Chapters.

Having received the necessary application and recommendation from the Grand Supt. of that District I issued a Dispensation for the formation of a Chapter at Rossland, B.C.

Willson Chapter, Welland, Ont.

The Warrant of this Chapter having been burned I was asked to issue a Dispensation enabling the Comps. to continue the Convocations and business of the Chapter and to elect Officers until a duplicate Warrant could be forwarded to them, which was done.

Grand Representatives.

On the 11th of February last I recommended Rt. Ex. Comp. Wm. Gibson, of Beamsville, as our Grand Representative for Missouri, U.S.A., which office was made vacant by Rt. Ex. Comp. MacWatt accepting Quebec.

In the same month I also nominated Rt. Ex. Comp. Hugh Murray as our Grand Representative, for the District of Columbia, U.S.A., made vacant by the resignation of M. Ex. Comp. Henry Robertson.

In March last I nominated Rt. Ex. Comp. W. G. Reid, of Hamilton, as our Grand Representative for Victoria, Australia, lately recognized by this Grand Chapter.

I also in the same month, nominated Rt. Ex. Comp. Harry H. Watson, of Vancouver, B.C., our late efficient Grand Superintendent there, as our Grand Representative for Tennessee, U.S.A.

Rt. Ex. Comp. David Taylor, of Ottawa, was re-nominated for West Virginia.

Foreign Representatives.

In April last, upon receiving the proper recommendation, I signed the appointment of Comp. J. H. Bullock, of Paris, Tennessee, U.S.A., as our Representative at that Grand Chapter.

In the same month I also signed the appointment of Rt. Ex. Comp. Robt. Marshall, as our Representative at New Brunswick.

I also in the same month signed the appointment of Rt. Ex. Comp. Winfield S. Hinckley, Dep. Grand H.P. as our Representative for the State of Maine, U.S.A.

In Sept. last I also signed the appointment of Comp. Jno. A. Zorn, as our Grand Representative at West Virginia, U.S.A.

Foreign Obituary.

I have been officially notified of the following deaths of eminent Companions outside our own jurisdiction for this year, 1898 :—

Aug. 22.—M. Ex. Comp. Wm. A. McLean, Past Grand High Priest and Grand Sec. of Florida, U.S.A.

Aug. 16.—M. Ex. Comp. Joseph S. Hindes, of Baltimore, Past. Grand High Priest of Maryland, U.S.A.

July 22.—Rt. Ex. Comp. Wm. T. Price, of Baltimore, Gtand King, Grand Chapter of Maryland.

Aug. 26.—M. Ex. Comp. Wm. Jas. Rhodes of Talladega, Dep. Grand H. P. of the Grand Chapter of Alabama, U.S.A.

Oct. 27.—M. Ex. Comp. A. N. Hughes, P. Grand H. P. of Grand Chapter, of Tennessee, U.S.A., at the ripe age of 87 years.

Oct. 4.—M. Ex. Comp. Orin H. Henry, Past Grand H. P. of Colorado, U.S.A.

Nov. 24.—M. Ex. Comp. Geo. A. Quimby, Past Grand H. P. of Iowa, U.S.A.

The Grand Scribe E.

Having received the resignation of our former Grand Scribe E. on the 1st Sept. last, and for other good and sufficient reasons, and after consultation with the Grand Council, in which we were assisted by two other eminent Comps. and in accordance with our Constitution, I suspended the above named officer, and appointed Rt. Ex. Comp. Geo. J. Bennett, of Toronto, to fill the vacant office until this Convocation of our Gd. Chapter. Rt. Ex. Comp. Bennett has proved himself a prompt and capable Grand Scribe E. under somewhat trying circumstances, since his appointment, and well fitted to be confirmed in that important office by this Grand Chapter. We also had the books of the former Grand Scribe E. audited by Rt. Ex. Comps. Murray, Reid and Shaw, and the amount found to be in his hands has been duly paid over to our Grand Treasurer, Rt. Ex. Comp. Murray.

I also directed Rt. Ex. Comp. Bennett to send out at once, circulars to each of the Chapters in our jurisdiction notifying them of the change of officers, and that all books and records had been handed over to Rt. Ex. Comp. Bennett, to whom all future returns and communications were to be made and sent.

Visitations.

Mt. Nebo—Niagara Falls South.

In April last I visited this Chapter in company with

Rt. Ex. Comp. Conolly, of Dunville, Grand Supt. of that District for the purpose of ascertaining the feelings of the Comps. regarding the proposed removal of the Chapter to the Bridge, Niagara Falls.

There were about 25 Comps. present and I found after discussion that about two-thirds of them were opposed to the removal.

The Z. was not present and I was told he had not attended since his election. I found also by the register that the Chapter had been meeting regularly for the past year, and that some work had been done.

Ex. Comp. Hyatt, S.E., reported that the finances were satisfactory, that there were $20 or $30 on hand, no debts, and $300 dues—the last item speaks for itself.

There was no work for me to pass upon. One of the Past Z's and the 3rd Principal, and some others were of the opinion that it would be in the interest of this Chapter, decidedly, to move to the Bridge, but as a large majority were strongly opposed to it, I see no way of bringing about the removal at present, but it casts upon the majority who oppose it, the duty of keeping their Chapter alive and active; otherwise my successor may decide either to direct its removal in the interest of Royal Arch Masonry, or grant a Warrant to the Companions at the Bridge who say they can make a successful Chapter there.

St. Paul's—Toronto.

On the 11th of May I visited this excellent Chapter and saw the R.A. Degree conferred. The attendance was large as usual and there were present among others, Rt. Ex. Comp. Reid, Grand H.-Rt. Ex. Comp. Shepley, Grand J.-Rt. Ex. Comp. Lyon, Grand Supt.

There were also some 10 or 11 past Z's, including visitors from other Chapters, present.

The quality of the ritualistic work of St. Paul's is well known to me and others in this jurisdiction and its excellence was maintained on this occasion, as at all my other visits to it. Many of the Chapters I have visited have a certain number of correct and impressive ritualists

among their Officers. In St. Paul's the number of qualified Companions is such, that together with the high standard of its leaders, all the Officers are correct and impressive, so that the finished whole is a pleasure and often a lesson to a Grand Officer, to see and hear—and this notwithstanding, as on this occasion, at the last hour, the Sen Sojr. for example, was pressed into the service, to take the place of the regular Officer.

Midland—Lindsay.

In June I visited this Chapter. There were some 22 or 24 present, and the Mark Degree was conferred on a candidate. The Degree was with some minor omissions and exceptions, correctly worked.

This Chapter had been meeting regularly up to my visit, with one exception, and all the degrees had been conferred.

The books of the S.E., Comp. Patrick, were models of good penmanship and neatness. This Chapter has about the usual number of Lodges to draw from. They are not in financial difficulties, and harmony prevails, so that there is no good reason, but one, why it should not be a live one, viz., want of energy and lack of interest.

Corinthian—Peterborough.

The next day I went on to this Chapter and met about thirty-five Companions—the R. A. Degree was conferred and was well and correctly done.

Rt. Ex. Comp. Henry, Grand Superintendent, was present ; also Rt. Ex. Comps, Wood, Morrow and Hall, Past Grand Supts. ; Dr. Carmichael was Z, and Rt. Ex. Comp. Morrow took the pedestal and gave it impressively and well.

This is a live Chapter, with excellent material among its members, to guarantee its future progress.

Keystone—Stirling.

On the following day I went on to this Chapter, and

was joined on my way by Rt. Ex. Comp. Wensley of Campbellford.

The Mark degree was exemplified, the expected Candidate not having appeared. There were about 15 or 16 Companions present.

Rt. Ex. Comp. Wensley took the chair of M. Overseer. The work was not above the average, mainly, I should judge, for want of practice. The Officers were capable men, viz., Dr. Meiklejohn, Z.; Major Heliwell, H., and A. Boardman, J., and with the necessary practice are undoubtedly quite capable ritualists.

This Chapter, like many others I have visited, labours under the disadvantage of having a large number of its Comps. living from 4 to 16 miles from the Chapter; two of those who met me had driven 16 miles, so that the quorum is pretty much a matter of wind and weather there. It struck me that the spirit of harmony prevailed and was stronger among these Comps. than in most other Chapters I have met; and if their ritualism equalled their "good fellowship" and hospitality, it would be hard to beat them.

St. Mark's—Trenton.

I went on to this Chapter the following day, accompanied by Rt. Ex. Comp. Wensley. There was a good attendance, among them five or six from Belleville. Ex. Comp. Walker was Z., and the R. A. Degree was conferred.

This Chapter's work was also defective for want of practice, as the material is quite good among the Officers. I found harmony among the Comps., and very little unpaid dues. As in Stirling, many of the Comps. of this Chapter are in the country, which, as I am told, affects the regularity of the attendance. With more work and regularity of attendance this should be a good live Chapter. As in other places it is a question of interest and energy only on the part of the officers and Comps.

St. John's—Cobourg.

On the 8th July I visited this Chapter, accompanied by Rt. Ex. Comp. Henry. There were about 40 or 50

present, among whom were visitors from Port Hope and Colborne. The R. A. Degree was conferred on two Candidates—Prof. Horning, Z.; Prof. Rayner, H., and Hoskin, J. The signs were given by a Past Z., and the pedestal by another P. Z., and the work with some minor exceptions correct and well done, as might be expected from the calibre and intellectual attainments of the Principals.

The composition of this Chapter struck me as being of a high order. It shows life and its prospects are bright.

Rt. Ex. Comp. Hargraft, Past Gd. Supt. was present also, and I learned takes an active interest in the Chapter, and is always ready with his assistance and advice whenever it is required.

Grenville—Prescott.

On the following day I went on to this Chapter, where Rt. Ex. Comp. Thompson had a Chapter of Instruction. The attendance was good for an afternoon meeting and the Mark degree was exemplified by Grenville Officers, and the work was in accordance with the ritual and was well done.

I found harmony among these Companions and its future is bright and its present condition satisfactory.

The M. E. M. Degree was worked by the Officers of St. Lawrence Chapter of Brockville, and was correct and satisfactory.

In the evening about forty Comps. were present, and all the Chapters in the District were represented except Warkworth, and in this way the District obtained the benefits of this well arranged and successful Chapter of Instruction.

The R. A. Degree was given by the officers of Ancient Frontenac and Cataraqui Chapter of Kingston, and this ancient and historic Chapter maintained its reputation for high class ritualism.

Rt. Ex. Comp. Shaw took the pedestal and proved himself an adept, by means of his impressive and resonant rendering of this metaphysical and beautiful portion of this degree.

Among those present were some five or six Companions

from across the river at Ogdensburg, who subsequently stated that they were impressed by the order and decorum of our methods in this degree.

Undoubtedly Free Masonry has made its beneficent influence felt all these years in preparing the mind of the great republic to the south of us, for the present remarkable and desirable change in the relations between them and Great Britain, and if our American cousins mean what they say regarding this union of the Anglo-Saxon races, and bring their nation to work for it and accept it, a new era in the world's affairs has arrived, the end of which cannot be foreseen nor its huge influence estimated.

When John Bull and Uncle Jonathan go hunting together, the game in the bag when they return will be no small matter.

Niagara.

On the 6th of October I visited this Chapter in company with Rt. Ex. Comp. Conolly, Grand Supt. ; Rt. Ex. Comps. Congden and Burtch, Past Grand Supts., were also present.

As this Chapter has been for the last two or three years reported dormant, I was anxious to meet the Comps. and see and hear for myself the reasons for it. With the visitors a quorum was had, and the Mark degree conferred on two Comps.—the Rev. and Ex. Comp. Garrett, Z.

The work of the Officers was defective for want of practice of some of them, and want of attention in others. Here, as in several other country Chapters, the reason given for the poor condition of the Chapter was the want of a quorum in the town, and many of the Comps. living in the country. There are about twenty members on the roll, and the financial condition is reported good, and the officers promised that with the accession of those at that meeting and 2 or 3 more they had in view, a better showing would be made next year.

Oshawa.

In company with Rt. Ex. Comp. Henry I visited this Chapter on the 16th of Nov.—the attendance was very good, about forty Companions being present, among whom five or six from Whitby.

Rt. Ex. Comp Henry acted as Z., and the R.A. degree conferred on four candidates ; the work was fairly good and correct but lacked smoothness and impressiveness.

I found by the books that a fair amount of work had been done this year, that harmony exists, and that with the aid and influence of Rt. Ex. Comp. Henry, the prospects for next year are brighter.

Oxford—Woodstock.

On the 21st of Nov. last accompanied Rt. Ex. Comp Partlo, Gd. Supt. of Wilson District, who then made his official visit to this Chapter, I also visited it.

There were about thirty Comps. present, and the Mark degree was conferred on one candidate, and the work was correct and acceptable. This Chapter has not shown its usual energy this year, but from its past record and the quality of its present Officers, there need be no fear of its future.

Chapters of Instruction.

I visited three Chapters of Instruction during the past year, one at Prescott already referred to, another at Toronto held by Occident Chapter, and St. Andrew and St. Johns, the other at St. Thomas held in the Chapter room of Palestine Chapter.

Toronto.

This Chapter of Instruction arranged by Rt. Ex. Comp. Lyon, was held on the 31st of May last. There was a very large attendance of Companions, all the members of the Grand Council, M. Ex. Comp. Kivas Tully, Past Grand Supt. Horwood, and a number of Zs. and Officers from the other Chapters in the city.

The officers of Occident Chapter took the Mark de-degree, and St. Andrew's and St. John's, the Most Ex., and both were correct and well done. An admirable feature of this Chapter of Instruction was the musical part, which was elaborate, well rendered and very enjoyable.

Rt. Ex. Comp. Lyon reported harmony and prosperity in his District, and the Supt. himself is to be congratulated on the success of this Chapter of Instruction.

St. Thomas.

This Chapter of Instruction took place at the above named city on the 24th of Nov. last. The Mark and M. E. M. were conferred on a candidate in the afternoon, and the attendance was unusually large for an afternoon meeting, about fifty having been present inlcuding visitors.

The Officers of Palestine Chapter conferred the Mark and M.E.M. They were well given and correct, and I was much gratified to notice the improvement in this and all other respects, as compared with my visit there last year. Under the reign of Ex. Comps. Rowe, Tilson and Fraser, the future of this Chapter is now very promising.

I was informed that thirty candidates, all of the proper sort, were admitted up to the date of my visit this year.

In the evening the R. A. degree was conferred on two candidates, by the Officers of Bruce Chapter of Petrolea, Very Ex. Comp. Sinclair, Z.

As the Officers of this Chapter are among the best in the west, it is needless to say that the work was correct and very well done, as in the other Chapters, which are noted for excellent work, all the officers of this Chapter know their parts, and gave them well, and among those on the floor Comp. Cooper, Principal Sojourner, was noticeable for his correct, finished and impressive rendering of that important section of the degree.

The attendance in the evening was still better than in the afternoon, about sixty-five being present, including Rt. Ex. Comp. Partlo, Grand Supt. of Wilson District, Past Grand Supt. Scott of London District, and Rt. Ex. Comp. Dubber, Grand Principal Sojourner.

This Chapter of Instruction arranged under the auspices and direction of Rt. Ex. Comp. Butler, of London, G.aud Supt. of the District, was a well-arranged and successful one, and its stimulating influence will be felt throughout his District. Before the Chapter closed, Rt. Ex. Comp. Butler, on behalf of the District, presented Past Grand Supt. of Petrolea, with a very handsome Grand Supt.'s regalia, as a mark of their approval and esteem, and Very Ex. Comp. Sinclair read him an address of congratulation from his own Chapter.

At all these visitations to Chapters and Chapters of Instruction, the usual time was pleasantly spent around

the festive board, after the business of the evening was concluded and good fellowship and fraternal intercourse held sway.

"We spent them not in toys,
Or lust or wine,
But in search of true fraternity,
Wit, eloqueuce, and poetry,
Arts which we love,
And these my friends are thine.

Scribe E's Notices.

I am indebted to Comp. W. G. Reynolds of Carleton Chapter, Ottawa ; Comp. Idsardi, of Palestine Chapter, St. Thomas ; Comp. Robertson of St. Paul's Chapter, Toronto ; Comp. Smith of St. Andrew and St. John's, Chapter, Toronto, for numerous notices of their proceedings and convocations during the year.

York Chapter, Eglinton, Ont.

In December last I received through Rt. Ex. Comp. Bennett, Grand Scribe E., letters from all the Chapters in Toronto, consenting and requesting that concurrent jurisdiction with the Chapters in Toronto, be granted to York Chapter of Eglinton. With these letters I also received a letter from Rt. Ex. Comp. Lyon Grand Supt. of the District, recommending that the application be granted.

I therefore drew up and forwarded to Rt. Ex. Comp. Bennett, G.S.E., a special Dispensation, granting the prayer of York Chapter to the extent of enabling them to receive Candidates and Comps. from Toronto for affiliation taking the fees for its own use until this Convocation of Grand Chapter.

As the only Chapters who would be affected by this grant have all requested that the privilege should be granted and the Grand Supt. has recommended it in the interests of York Chapter, which is rather peculiarly situated, I advise this Grand Chapter to ratify and confirm the Dispensation.

In drawing up the Dispensation I made the rights granted to York Chapter mutual as between it and the

Chapters in the city, so that the Toronto Chapters will have the same rights regarding the former as they grant to it.

So-called Grand Chapter of Ontario.

Pursuant to the resolution passed by this Grand Chapter in 1898, a meeting of the Committee appointed then, was held at Toronto, in the Temple Building, on the 27th of October last, and the following Members of that Committee were present: M. Ex. Comp. J. Ross Robertson, Rt. Ex. Comps. Reid and Shepley, and myself—with Rt. Ex. Comp. Bennett, as Secretary.

After going over the documents produced to us, including the seal of the so-called Grand Chapter of Ontario, the Committee was satisfied, that such an organization did exist, and that those who signed the petition to us to be healed were members of that organization in Hamilton, Toronto, Stratford and Chatham, and they were vouched for as fit material for Royal Arch Masons—a resolution was therefore passed by the Committee directing the Grand Supts. of the respective Districts where these Brethren were to "heal" them, at some Convocation of a regular Chapter in each District and to furnish them, when so healed with a Certificate, to be provided by the Committee, to qualify them to apply for affiliation to any regular Chapter in our jurisdiction.

In accordance with this resolution, and after the necessary correspondence, Rt. Ex. Comp. Bennett at the request of Rt. Ex. Comp. Lyon, Grand Supt. of Toronto District, healed Comps. Jas. Y. Egan, Alex. P. Ross and Wm. B. Stoneham, on the 30th of December last in Antiquity Chapter, Toronto.

On the 5th of this month Rt. Ex. Comp. Ferrah, Gd. Supt. of Hamilton District, healed Comps. Wm. Amor, Robt. J. Dickenson and Frank L. Nash in the Chapter at Oakville—and on the 17th of this month Rt. Ex. Comp. Ferrah also healed J. Blois Smith, Alfred E. Smith and Wm. Harper in the same Chapter, making the full number of the Hamilton, Ont., Chapter R. A. Masons. In Stratford, however, the Z. of Tecumseh Chapter there, at once objected to the Supt. healing any of these brethren there, mainly for the reason that his Chapter should have been

consulted before any one was authorized to heal them. In the course of the correspondence I asked Ex. Comp. McFadden to give me some formal charge, or good Masonic objection, why the mandate of Grand Chapter, and the resolution of the Committee should not be carried out, pointing out to him that the healing of these men would not make them Companions of his, or any Chapter, and that when they wished to affiliate with any Chapter, they must pass the ballot as in any other case of affiliation.

Not having received from Ex. Comp. McFadden, or any of the other Officers of his Chapter, any formal charge or specific objection to the healing, although he protested strongly again to their being healed in any Chapter, I at length directed Rt. Ex. Comp. Hall, Gd. Supt. of that District, to proceed to heal them at any other Chapter in the District, pursuant to the resolution of the Committee.

Rt. Ex. Comp. Hall gave notice accordingly, to the Chapter at Stratford that he would proceed to heal these Brethren at his own Chapter in Kincardine, whereupon a special Convocation of Tecumseh Chapter, was called on the 12th of this month, and a resolution was passed, as the S. E. certified, unanimously declaring that some of these Brethren were unfit for admission as Royal Arch Masons, and that if they were healed it would work great injury to the prosperity of the Chapter there.

This resolution, amounting to a charge against some of these Brethren, and being the first which was sent to me by the Chapter at Stratford, and being also unanimous, I at once directed Rt. Ex. Comp. Hall to stay all further proceedings for the present and I wrote to the S. E. at Stratford advising him for the Chapter what had been done by me.

I also requested the three Principals to meet the Committee the evening before Grand Chapter, to consider what under the circumstances should be done, after this Convocation, when, no doubt, an amicable arrangement will be recorded, and this running sore in our body be soon healed.

The Condition of Royal Arch Masonry.

I have received the reports of all the Superintendents, except Georgian District and applying, as last year, as

the test of life and prosperity the number of Convocations held during the year, the number of members for 1897 and 1898, and the amount of work done during the year, and find the following is the standing of the Chapters in this jurisdiction for 1898 :—

Stationary,	Retrograding,	Progressing,
16	7	56

For 1897.

Stationary,	Retrograding,	Progressing,
16	13	51

Taken by Provinces the position is as follows :—

British Columbia :

Stationary,	Retrograding,	Progressing,
0	0	3

At the institution of the Chapter at Rossland last fall twenty Candidates were Marked. So far as numbers go, therefore, this new sister of the golden west starts out with good auspices.

Northwest Territories :

Stationary,	Retrograding,	Progressing,
1	0	2

I notice that Rt. Ex. Comp. Markley visited each of his Chapters two or three times during the year, notwithstanding the great distances between the Chapters.

I commend the zeal of this Supt. to some of our own in Ontario where the large majority have not over 20 to 30 miles to go for a visit which is not made.

Manitoba :

Stationary,	Retrograding,	Progressing,
1	1	2

It will be noticed that Prince Rupert at Winnipeg, with a membership of 141, has 83 of them over 12 months in arrears for dues, amounting to $400. This Chapter shows life and progress in other respects and the above state of things ought not to exist there.

Ontario :

Stationary.	Retrograding.	Progressing.
14	6	49

No returns have been received by me for Georgian District, consequently if this District is doing well I cannot make it known.

In several other cases, while the Grand Supts. sent in a report of their own visits to the various Chapters in their Districts, no tabulated statement of the number of Convocations held, number of Members last year and this year, nor the amount of "work" done was furnished me, so that very little useful information can be gathered from these defective reports. Each Chapter is furnished with a form all ready to be filled in, giving this and other necessary information, and it is the duty of the Scribe of each Chapter to send this return to his Supt. before the end of December in each year, so that the Supts. can send them on to me for Grand Chapter in good time for my report and for the Committee on the Condition of Masonry.

The Districts.

Applying the same test of efficiency to the Districts I find the two most progressive Districts under the Grand Chapter of Canada are Toronto and Ontario Districts, with eight progressive Chapters in each and none stationary or retrograding.

In Ontario District I notice a praiseworthy condition which I commend tomany others ofour Chapters. In this District of eight Chapters there are but fifty-eight members over 12 months in arrears for dues in the *whole* District, in two of them, Colborne and Warkworth, there is not one.

King Solomon's Chapter of Toronto leads all other Chapters in the jurisdiction, in the number exalted in 1898 viz., thirty-four.

I am well pleased to find also that Doric Chapter of Newmarket, which was dormant when I visited it in '97, is now again on its feet and prospering with 17 candidates last year.

When I visited this Chapter in 1897 Rt. Ex. Comp. Brunton was the only Comp. there who had any hope of the resurrection of it, and I learn from the Superintendent's report that to his example and energy, must be attributed much of the credit for the position this once dead Chapter occupies now.

"Success is the ability to make efforts."

Last fall Port Colborne which had sent in their Charter recalled it and it is now doing well and with fair prospects for the future.

The Chapter at Grimsby which also has been dormant got together last fall and I am told will get on its feet once more.

This leaves Shelburne, Sudbury, Rat Portage, Exeter, the four dormant Chapters in the jurisdiction.

Encouraging Statement.

I learn just as I am concluding this report, from Rt. Ex. Comp. Bennett, Grand Scribe E., that the cash received by him to date, is almost double what it was at this time last year, and that taking all the Chapters in the jurisdiction, there have been over 300 additions to our numbers, while the losses are much lower than the average.

The Fee for Admission.

As many of you will remember when the motion to reduce the minimum fee for admission into our Chapters came up for discussion, the feeling of Gd. Chapter was decidedly against the reduction, but those who favored it argued that if the fee was reduced, it did not compel any Chapter to admit candidates for $10, they were at liberty to fix the fee at any sum each Chapter thought best, but the reduction would enable certain Chapters which were dormant, or nearly so, to get in new "blood," increase their numbers and get on their feet again and in this way it would be a benefit to the Royal Craft.

Now after two years' observation and experience of the reduction, and after hearing the views of many of the Chapters from Windsor to Prescott, I have come to the conclusion that we should retrace our steps in this matter and make the minimum fee for admission $20 as it was before.

One reason is that I find that when a Chapter has reduced its fee to $10, the other Chapters who did not wish to make their Royal Arch Masonry so cheap have been compelled to do so. Intending candidates learn that the next Chapter to theirs only ask $10 to make them

R.A.M's and they ask why the Chapter in whose jurisdiction they live demands from them $20 or $15 as the case may be, and so they hang back ; they are not willing to give twice as much as the neighbouring Chapter asks ; they can't go to the cheap Chapter because it is not in their jurisdiction and so both Chapters lose these men, unless the Chapter where the candidates live, also, against their wish, reduce their fee.

When the $10 is received $2 goes for a certificate and Regn. leaving $8 for the Chapter and this is too small a fee for an ordinary Chapter to carry on its affairs for long. There may be a rush for a time, but in all cases the amount of suitable material is limited and is soon exhausted and then the Chapter finds itself getting behind financially, with its attendant troubles. To avoid this the Comps must relax the protection of the ballot and admit material which they otherwise would not, and so lower the standard of our Royal Craft.

Among a certain other class of candidates the cheapening of the fee has had an opposite effect from that contemplated—they are a class who have pretty high ideals of Masonry, and when they find one Chapter after another cheapening the admission to our branch of the Craft, the question occurs to them, "Is this branch of Masonry worth much when its possessors are making it so cheap? almost bidding against one another for candidates and when asked to join they hang back and say they will consider the matter, and it ends there—it is too cheap for that class of our brethren."

In my mother Chapter we received a large number of applications the year following the reduction, and one-half of them never appeared for their degrees, although accepted and notified.

I am also aware that several of the Chapters who reduced their fee temporarily, and thus made a sudden increase to their numbers, have gone back to the old fee—others to $15 and so on—they found that they could not pay expenses and at the same time admit only the right material.

Whatever good, therefore, there is in the $10 fee it has done its work, and in my opinion it will be in the interests of Royal Arch Masonry in our jurisdiction to go back to the original fee of $20.

Valedictory.

The time has arrived my Companions when I return to you the sceptre which you entrusted to me two years ago.

The duties of your Grand Z. are neither few nor trivial, his responsibilities are considerable and in many cases unpleasant, if he is imbued with a strong liking for Royal Arch Masonry and a determination that it shall not deteriorate under his regime. It entails a considerable draft on his time and energy, so that like a well-known game "honours are not always easy," in that office.

But where one does his best the Companions are quick to appreciate and generous to acknowledge it—and so I have found it.

In the discharge of my duties and on my visitations I have renewed many old friendships and made many new ones—my visits have given me more accurate and broader views and knowledge of our Royal Craft, and at the same time increased my knowledge of my own Province, and if your Committee on the Condition of Royal Arch Masonry find that I hand over to my successor a jurisdiction which has not deteriorated under my rule, I shall be amply repaid for what time and trouble I have given to the Gd. Chapter of Canada for the last two years.

The Grand Chapter of Canada, extending as it does from the confines of Quebec to the Pacific ocean, and embracing the populous and wealthy Province of Ontario, is a jurisdiction which any one may well be proud to be placed at the head of. Among its members you will find the men of "light and leading" in every place, men of affairs—in the mercantile, manufacturing, banking and professional world—and the land is a fair land as one goes up and down in it.

"A plenteous place is Canada, for hospitable cheer.
Where the healthful fruit is bursting from the yellow barley ear.
There is honey in the trees, where her misty vales expand,
And her forest paths in summer are by falling waters fanned;
There is joy at high noontide there
And gold in the yellow sands on the fair hills of Canada."

M. Walsh, *Grand Z.*

Ingersoll,
January 20, 1899.

It was moved by R. E. Comp. W. G. Reid, seconded by M. E. Comp. J. J. Mason, and

Resolved,—That the address of the M. E. the Grand Z. be referred to the Executive Committee to report thereon during the present Convocation of Grand Chapter.

Grand Superintendents' Reports.

The reports of the Grand Superintendents of Districts were then presented.

ST. CLAIR DISTRICT, No. 1.

To the Most Excellent the Grand Z, Principals and Companions of the Grand Chapter of Canada.

As Grand Superintendent of the St. Clair District, I beg to submit the following report :

Capitular Masonry in this district has varied in prosperity this year to a more than usual extent. In some of the local centres the members are most enthusiastic, candidates numerous, and the work scrupulously well done, while in others indifference and laxity in every form prevail. Sometimes it has appeared to me that the most effective way in which the lesser lights might be made to shine brighter would be by bringing as many of their members as possible into contact with the more enthusiastic Chapters, so that they might see their work, make comparisons and contract a spirit of emulation, which causes criticism and discussion of the work, resulting in their own work being done more heartily and in better form. The Chapter of Instruction has no doubt been designed for this purpose amongst others, but the last three or four held in this district have been very one-sided affairs. Usually the three degrees have been attempted and each Chapter, except the lucky one, has considered that it has been slighted by the Grand Superintendent not having allotted that degree to them, with the result that the Chapters that attended consisted of the one resident at the place of meeting and the Chapter to which the Grand Superintendent belonged if he did not hold it in his own town. No particular benefit could result from such meetings as no comparison of the work done by the different bodies could take place. I therefore

devised a scheme by which only the Royal Arch degree should be exemplified, and the officers conferring it should be chosen by lot in equal numbers from each Chapter in the district.

Practically the way in which this result was attained was, that the twelve officers were each allotted a number purely by chance; these numbers were sent to the Chapters, each selecting two; when two selected the same, the elder Chapter had preference; and each Chapter undertook to have present at the Chapter of Instruction the two officers falling to its lot.

Following out this method a Chapter of Instruction was held at Chatham on May 17th, the allotment resulting in the First Principal and Janitor falling to Wellington Chapter of Chatham; to Erie of Ridgetown the Senior Sojourner and Second Principal; to Prince of Wales of Amherstburg the Third Principal and Junior Sojourner; to King Cyrus of Leamington Scribe N. and First Veil; to Ark of Windsor Scribe E. and Third Veil; to Macnabb of Dresden Principal Sojourner and Second Veil. (The Scribe E. took also the work of the Fourth Veil). When the meeting took place neither of the officers from Amherstburg appeared and Companion Foster of Leamington was ill, but their places were supplied by others present, who earned thereby my warm gratitude. The novelty of the make-up of the team brought a large attendance, including a good many members from the distant Chapters sending officers. The work was well done, the officers working together much more smoothly than could have been expected; for even the best working Chapters differ in the smaller details from one another, and such details are of course apt to become prominent when the team is constituted as above.

Wellington Chapter, Chatham.—Appears this year to have had some what of a revival of its old-time energy, a fair number of candidates have been admitted, and its immediate prospects are much better than for the past few years. Its financial standing is good, its officers are good workers, and Comp. Birch as Scribe E. kept its affairs in the best order.

On Nov. 7th, I visited Erie Chapter of Ridgetown, and witnessed the conferring of the R. A. degree upon several candidates in a very creditable manner, a large number of the officers were from Highgate, where there appears to be a

goodly quantity of enthusiastic material coming forward; the Chapter is in good standing financially, and the feeling of friendly rivalry between the members from Ridgetown and Highgate causes the interest in the Chapter to be much stronger than usual.

Ark Chapter, Windsor.—My own Chapter has not been able to make as good a showing as usual this year, owing partly to the raising of the entrance fee, causing a death of candidates, and also to the enforced absence of the First Principal in Chicago for a good part of the year. Early in the year a very pleasant visit was paid to Leamington and good work done. The fee is now lowered again, and at the time of writing, several candidates are in hand, so that a very prosperous year can be looked forward to. The Chapter is in a fair condition financially, and its books and records are exceedingly well kept.

Prince of Wales, Amherstburg.—I have been unable to arrange a meeting for my visit, and so cannot speak from personal observation as to the work done. I have not yet received their statistical report either, but will forward it as soon as received.

King Cyrus, Leamington.—I visited this Chapter on December 14th on rather short notice, when the M. E. degree was being conferred; it was exceedingly well done throughout, the officers working together very smoothly and calmly, which gives great impressiveness to the work. This Chapter is one of those that has had a very prosperous year, a considerable number of candidates having been admitted, and there being a large number of certainties ready for entrance. Comp. Greenhill keeps the records and books in an irreproachable manner. I have been invited to visit the Chapter again in the middle of January, when the R. A. degree is to be conferred on some seven or eight candidates.

Macnabb Chapter, Dresden.—I regret extremely that my official visit has not yet been paid to this chapter; it was arranged for in November, but owing to my absence from town I did not receive notice until too late; another attempt to arrange it for Dec. 27th also proved abortive; however, I expect to be there before the Convocation of Grand Chapter. From the work I have seen done by some of its officers, I know that what this Chapter can do will compare favor-

ably with that of any in this district; it has had a most prosperous year, admitting a larger number of candidates than any other under my supervision, and its financial affairs and records are in good shape.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

JNO. SALE.

Dated at Windsor, Jan. 3rd, 1899.

LONDON DISTRICT, No. 2.

To the Most Excellent the Grand Z. Officers and Excellent Companions of the Grand Chapter of Canada.

As Grand Superintendent of London District for the past year, I beg to submit herewith a report of my proceedings.

This district comprises seven Chapters, viz.: St. John's No. 3 and St. George's No. 5, London; Wawanosh No. 15, Sarnia; Bruce No. 53, Petrolia; Palestine No. 54, St. Thomas; Minnewawa No. 78, Parkhill, and Aylmer No. 81, Aylmer. In all of which perfect harmony prevails and all are in good working order.

ST. JOHN'S CHAPTER, No. 3, London. — Visited this Chapter on October 27th. This being the largest Chapter in the district, with many good past and present officers, and plenty of good material for the future advancing, should necessarily be looked to for good work. Ex. Comp. Carson, the present Ex. Z, has always been very painstaking in any office that he has undertaken, and he is being followed by a number of members that are certain to make good officers; so that I have no doubt but that this Chapter will show a good record for some time to come. At this meeting they were unfortunate in not having any work, as candidates previously balloted for were reported, through sickness and other unavoidable causes, not able to appear.

Again visited this Chapter on December 14th, when the degrees of M. M. M. and M. E. M. were conferred on two candidates in a very correct and impressive manner, the work of the Ex. Z. being especially well done and well supported by the other officers

The veteran Scribe E. Comp. Siddons continues to discharge the duties of that office in the same faithful manner, and though the Chapter has but about held its own this year with good Principals and members in the minor offices who have made good records in their blue lodges, a prosperous year ahead may be looked for. I might say that I found some parts of their work which I considered not authorized by this Grand Chapter, and which I took occasion to correct and to point out the necessity of having their work as authorized by this Grand Chapter adhered to as correctly as possible.

St. George's Chapter, No. 5, London.—This is my own Chapter, and as I am rarely absent from its meetings I am therefore quite familiar with the work done. The Ex. Z, Comp. Spittal has just completed his second year in that office, having been re-elected last year, the then Second Principal Ex. Comp. Armitage removing from the city, which was much regretted as he had been a most zealous member and a good officer. In regard to the class of work done in this Chapter, as the M. Ex. Grand Z. Comp. Walsh in his address to Grand Chapter at the last annual Convocation gave Ex. Comp. Spittal and his officers especial mention complimenting them on their good work, followed up by the report of R. Ex. Comp. Scott, Grand Superintendeut, I may say that the officers are much the same and that the same high standard of work is still maintained. The Chapter has progressed nicely during the year and with some six accepted petitions to start the new year with, and the enthusiastic young officers, the prospects certainly should be as the Scribe E. states, good. The Chapter has an exceptional painstaking Scribe E. in the person of Comp. C. C. Reed, re-elected annually for the past fourteen years, whose records and books are in perfect order, and his services are always cheerfully given in anything tending to benefit the Chapter. One of the most important meetings of St. George's Chapter during the year was their regular Convocation of October 28th, when they received a fraternal visit from Palestine Chapter No. 54, St. Thomas, who had accepted their invitation and were present to the number of twenty-five and with their Ex. Comp Roe in the chair, assisted by his officers conferred the R. A. degree in such a manner that not only convinced the London Companions that they could exhibit their enthusiasm and strength by a good repre-

sentation, but that they had also attained the highest perfection in their work. R. Ex. Comp. R. McKay and Ex. Comp. W. E. Idsardi were among the visitors. A banquet was afterwards held at which the two Chapters and other visitors entered into in such a manner that made it a fitting return to that of St. George's to Palestine on April 14th. St. George's had also invited the Petrolia and Aylmer Chapters upon this occasion from whom they had received previous favors and it was much regretted that owing to unavoidable circumstances they were unable to be present.

Wawanosh Chapter, No. 15, Sarnia. — Visited this Chapter on December 9th, and notwithstanding that the town was on the eve of a political contest, I found a good attendance. Though there were a number to receive the R. A. degree at this meeting from the fact that they were railway employeesand mariners who are never just sure of being present, at the last moment it was found that they could not appear. However, the Ex. Z. Comp. Simpson very kindly made the best of it and with the assistance of two of the members whoformed a team, exemplified the R A. degree in such a manner that thoroughly convinced me that they were well prepared to do their work whenever it was on hand. The Principals were well up in their work. The Scribes Comps Wiggins and Morrison doing their floor work nicely, and the Principal Sojourner's work being very well done. The whole work was accompanied by the music from the organ, which was a very impressive feature. Scribe E Wiggins, lately elected to this position, will indeed be a credit to the Chapter if he proves himself a worthy successor to the V. Ex. Comp. Dr. Wood, who has been for many years a most zealous and devoted member to this Chapter in times of adversity, and now that he is joined by such Excellent Companions as Kerr and Winlow among others, I have no doubt but that the Chapter will continue to progress steadily.

Bruce Chapter, No. 53, Petrolia.—Visited this Chapter on March 3rd, being accompanied by R. Ex. Comp. A. G. McWhinney and Comp. R. W. Evans, the Principal Sojourner of St. George's No. 5, and found the veteran V. Ex. Comp. John Sinclair in the chair and surrounded by a thoroughly competent set of officers and a large number of zealous and enthusiastic members. The degrees of M. M. M.

and M. E. M. were conferred in a faultless manner. The work as authorized by Grand Chapter was simply given to a word and in a very impressive manner, and the floor work to a step.

V. Ex. Comp. Sinclair not only possesses a thorough knowledge of the work but has a happy faculty of imparting that knowledge to others, and he is ably assisted by every member of the Chapter. The duties of Scribe E. are faithfully performed by Comp. J. Belasco, who takes a deep interest in anything pertaining to the welfare of the Chapter. From previous reports of this Chapter you have learned of its admirable progress from what it was, to what it is, and at the hands of those in charge it must remain so for a long time to come. To show the complete unity that exists in this Chapter, before closing I was pleased to witness a number of presentations- First, came a nicely worded address read by R. Ex. Comp. Scott on behalf of the Chapter to V. Ex. Comp. Sinclair, expressive of the appreciation of his services to the Chapter, and the high esteem in which he is held by the Companions, accompanied by a beautiful silver service bearing a suitably engraved inscription. The recipient, though taken completely by surprise, acknowledged the kindness of his Companions in his usual sincere and characteristic manner. Next came a nicely executed large photo group of the officers taken as in the Chapter room, presented by Mr. Couse, a local photographer. Then came the presentation a photo group of the Past First Principals of the Chapter arranged in a neat frame, and lastly R. Ex, Comp. Scott presented the Chapter with a very nice Masonic Chart. A feature at the magnificent banquet which was held at the Iriquois Hotel after the Chapter was closed, was the proposing the health of their members in foreign lands, of which they have many, and each of which was separately mentioned and ably responded to by Ex. Comp. John Fraser. The Chapter suffers the loss this year of its much esteemed Second Principal Ex. Comp. Ed Marshall, by his removal to London. I was present at the Installation in his Blue Lodge on December 27th, when they presented him with a beautiful engrossed address accompanied by a handsome P. M. Jewel.

Palestine Chapter, No. 54, St. Thomas.—Visited this Chapter on March 24th, accompanied by V. Ex. Comp. Camp-

bell and Ex. Comp. Spittal of St. George's No. 5, and saw Ex. Comp. Roe, and his officers confer the M. M. M. degree on a number of M. M's, and considering that the work for the year had only begun it was indeed very well done. This Chapter has had an abundance of work this year and the material is of the desired class, and as the officers are zealous and enthusiastic at the prosperity of their Chapter with a determination to excel in their work, it certainly has resulted in a splendid showing for the year. I am somewhat interested in their prosperity, having received my degrees in this Chapter some sixteen years ago, and so well remember their pride in those days in doing the old work so well for which they had a reputation, and while to-day many of the older members feel a desire for the work as done many years ago, they are proving their loyalty in perfecting themselves in the work as authorized by Grand Chapter.

Early in the year the Chapter sustained the loss of their Scribe E. by his removal to Vancouver. Ex. Comp. Bradshaw was a sincere and zealous member. His place in the Chapter has been filled by the election of Ex. Comp. Idsardi, a former Scribe E. for many years and one who has a splendid past record for doing his work well. It was pleasing to see so many of the old members present and taking the same keen interest and pride in their Chapter that they did twenty years ago, among whom were R. Ex. Comp. Robert McKay, P. G. Supt. R. Ex. Comp. S. Dubber, G.P.S, and Ex. Comps. Idsardi, Slater, Wallis, Cockran and Graham. This Chapter possesses a magnificent set of sixteen banners, and when placed in position around the room presents a very pretty appearance.

I again visited this Chapter on April 14th, accompanying the officers of St. George's No. 5, London, they having been invited by Palestine No. 54 to pay them a fraternal visit and confer the R. A. degree. The officers of St. George's turned out in full force and with their Ex. Comp. Spittal in the chair conferred the R. A. degree on six M. E. M's in a very correct and impressive manner. Notwithstanding that it was a night of political excitement in the city, members turned out in large numbers and made it just what these fraternal visits are bound to produce. Doing a great amount of good by seeing the work done in other Chapters and stimulating a splendid feeling among the different Chapters in the district. Among

the visitors besides St. George's were R. E. Comp. Rutherford, and Comp. Clark of Aylmer. The Chapter closed, Ex. Comp. Roe invited all to their spacious banqueting room, where a splendid spread awaited them and a couple of hours were spent in speech and song with such a vim that made all enter into the occasion heartily, and made the reception of the visitors to Palestine a splendid success.

Minnewawa Chapter, No. 78, Parkhill.—Visited this Chapter on September 30th, and was indeed highly gratified to find an attendance of nearly thirty out of a total membership of thirty-three, an example that might with pride be pointed out to many of the Chapters with much larger membership and easier means of getting to their Chapter, as some of the Companions had driven many miles, others came by train from Arkona, Thedford and Forest, while one of the candidates came from Exeter.

I am certain that the kind words of encouragement from my predecessor, R. Ex. Comp. Scott, while in office, have been appreciated and have had a good effect in this Chapter, and to whom they have a very kindly feeling for having arranged the question of jurisdiction in this section of the district to the satisfaction of all concerned.

At this meeting the R. A. degree was conferred on three M. E. M's. in a very competent manner, officers and members alike seeming to evince a keen interest in the work. The office of Scribe E. of this Chapter has a record of being so well looked after by Comp. Wedd, that it is needless for me to say anything further as to that office.

Ex. Comps. Dr. Caw, Dawson, McLeod, Phippen and others, who have stood by the Chapter in the past, were present and continue to do the same good work. While the Chapter has about held its own during the year, they have four accepted petitions to start the new year with, and I am certain that the officers and members will endeavor to make the coming year a prosperous one, and I trust that it may become one of the brightest Chapters in the district.

Aylmer Chapter, No. 81, Alymer.—Visited this Chapter on November 11th, accompanied by R. E. Comp. Dubber and E. Comp. Roe, of Palestine Chapter, St. Thomas. There being no work, one of the members kindly volunteered to act

as a candidate, and the degrees of M. M. M. and M. E. M. were exemplified, and was so well done under the circumstances, that bore out the fact that though the Chapter is not progressing fast in numbers, they are fully alive and up in the work and everything looked after in good shape. However, I noticed by their summons calling their regular meeting for December 30th that there were three petitions to ballot for, and I understand that since then two more have been received, so that an era of prosperity in this respect is no doubt at hand. They have one of the prettiest and best appointed halls in the district, and with the genial Ex. Z. Comp Dr. G. F. Clark in the chair, and being followed by the Excellent Comps. Ogilvie and Burdick, as second and third Principals, and the faithful Comp. Richards as Scribe E., who will only allow things to be done one way and that must be the correct one, and R. Ex. Comp. Rutherfords' good counsel and assistance, and other enthusiastic members they are certain to maintain the good name of their Chapter, and take advantage of increasing their membership as opportunity offers. Their meetings are genuine fraternal reunions of their members, and though increase of membership of the right class is always desirable, the absence in this case for the time being does not appear to otherwise endanger the life of the Chapter, as their ability to do good work, and the happy feeling among them is to them, and all who visit them, a source of pride.

I held a Chapter of Instruction in the Masonic Temple at St. Thomas on November 24th, giving the district ample notice by placing a circular letter in the hands of every member of the seven Chapters in the district a month previous to the meeting. Being determined to do my part towards making the occasion as near as possible to that which the name implies, after corresponding and interviewing the Chapters, I found that but two of them, viz., Palestine, of St. Thomas, and Bruce, of Petrolia, could with any degree of certainty guarantee to have their officers present sufficiently to have the work well done I, therefore, placed the afternoon session in charge of the St. Thomas Chapter, and gave the Petrolia Chapter charge of the evening session, and the manner in which the work was done and the meetings conducted gave me no cause to regret my doing so. At the afternoon session the degrees of M. M. M. and M. E. M. were conferred by the Ex. Z. Comp. Roe and his officers of Palestine Chapter, and

at the evening session the R. A. degree was conferred by the V. Ex. Z. Comp. Sinclair and his officers of Bruce Chapter, and in regard to the work done by both of these Chapters, I can only say that it was simply a perfect rendition in a very impressive manner of the work as handed down and authorized by the Grand Chapter of Canada. The work of Principal Sojourner, as done by Comp. W. F. Cooper, of Petrolia, being the best I have seen. After the work was over fraternal discussions were entered into regarding matters appertaining to the Royal Craft, after which I had the honor, on behalf of London District, No. 2, of presenting to R. Ex. Comp. Robert Scott, of Petrolia, a very handsome P. G. Superintendent's regalia, including a jewel bearing a suitably engraved inscription expressive of the sterling worth of this Companion during his term of office, and at all times to anything tending to promote the welfare of the Craft. V. E. Comp. Sinclair also presented R. Ex. Comp. Scott with an engrossed address from his own Chapter, couched in complimentary terms and expressive of their appreciation of his services in the past. R. Ex. Comp. Scott replied in a feeling manner, cherishing the good feeling of the district and of his own Chapter towards him.

The M. E. Grand Z. Comp. Walsh honored us with his presence at both the afternoon and evening sessions and in addressing the Companions gave them much good advice and words of encouragement, giving them the benefit of his experience and rulings on questions coming before Grand Chapter. He expressed himself as well pleased with the attendance, under the circumstances, and pronounced the work done as first class. R. Ex. Comp. Wm. Partlo, G. Supt. of Wilson Districs No. 3, gave us the pleasure of his presence at the evening session. The attendance otherwise was largely made up by a good turnout of the St. Thomas Chapter, including many Past Principals, a splendid representation of about twenty from Petrolia, a goodly number from Aylmer, an even half dozen from London, and odd Companions from other Chapters made an attendance of about one hundred. The Chapter closed, all retired into the adjoining room where a sumptuous banquet had been prepared and some two or three hours were spent in speech and song which soon developed into a pleasant and happy reunion of all present.

In closing my report of this meeting I wish to especially

thank the Ex. Z. Comp. Roe, Ex. Comp. Idsardi, Scribe E., as well as other officers and members of Palestine Chapter for their kindness in making all arrangements at St. Thomas, and their display of hospitality in a marked degree, also V. E. Comp. Sinclair, who attended at a great personal sacrifice, and the other officers and Companions of Petrolia who attended in such good numbers, and gratified my desire to have them confer the R. A. degree at a district meeting, and by the efforts of all succeeded in making the meeting a marked success in every particular.

During the year I have granted two dispensations, one to Bruce Chapter No. 53, Petrolia. to appear clothed as Royal Arch Masons at Divine Service on June 26th, and one to Palestine Chapter No. 54, to wear the regalia on the occasion of the laying of the corner stone of the new City Hall at St. Thomas on August 8th, forwarding the fees received, viz., $2, to the Grand Scribe E.

As I herewith attach a summarized table giving further information of the Chapters as reported to me by the Scribes E., little need be said in a general review of the district in concluding my report. However, as two of the Chapters, viz , Palestine No. 54, and Minnewawa No. 78, were referred to in the address of the Grand Z. of the last year as requiring attention, I may say that it will no doubt be very gratifying to find that this year Palestine Chapter has made such a magnificent record both as to increase of membership and the high standard of work done, having conferred the degrees on twenty-nine new members, and as I am personally acquainted with many of them can vouch that the material is of the very best. They have certainly exceeded the expectations of the most sanguine.

Minnewawa Chapter has held its own, and starts in the new year with prosperity ahead of them All of the Chapters are well officered, and this year should continue to show London District, No. 2, as a credit to Grand Chapter. Experience has thoroughly convinced me that nothing brings success to a Chapter as much as having the work done well. It is the foundation store of suceess, and without it a Chapter cannot expect to attain any great degree of perfection. These are the sentiments I have emphasized in my visits to the Chapters, and I again offer them to the Chapters of London District, to continue and improve where possible, the good work they have done during the past year.

I sincerely thank the representatives who unanimously elected me to the honorable position of Grand Superintendent of this district, and for their hearty support during my term of office. Also to the M. Ex. Grand Z. Comp. Walsh, and R. Ex. Grand Scribe E. Comp. Bennett for their prompt attention and assistance in anything I required. As to my visits to the Chapters in London, I always feel quite at home, and as to the Chapters outside, at every meeting attended, I was royally received as your representative, and most hospitably entertained by the Companions, every occasion appearing as an opportunity for a social reunion, and in handing over the regalia to my successor, I have nothing but the most pleasant memories of my official connections with the Chapters and Companions of London District.

All of which is fraternally submitted.

J. W. Butler,
Grand Superintendent London District.

London, Dec. 30th, 1898.

LONDON DISTRICT No. 2.

Summary of Information, etc., from December 30th, 1897, to December 30th, 1898.

	Chapters by their Numbers.						
	No 3.	No. 5.	No. 15.	No. 53.	No. 54.	No. 78.	No. 81.
No. of Meetings held :							
Regular	10	10	10	10	12	7	9
Emergent	2	1	2	3	12	7	9
Total	12	11	12	13	21	7	9
Average Attendance :							
Members	25	30	11	19	23	11	20
Visitors	6	10	1	2	3	1	1
Annual Dues per Member.	$2.00	$2 & $1	$1.50	$2.00	$1.00	$1.50	$2.00
Number of Members per last Return	132	115	97	84	91	33	54
Number of Petitions Accepted	9	15	8	4	29	6	0
Number of Candidates Initiated	10	9	6	4	29	2	0
Number of Affiliations	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
" " Restorations	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
" " Withdrawals	2	0	1	0	1	2	1
" " Suspensions.	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
" " Deaths	4	1	0	0	3	0	1
Present Membership	136	123	102	88	115	33	53
Degrees Conferred :							
M. M. M	10	9	6	4	29	2	0
M. E. M	10	9	5	4	28	2	0
R. A	6	9	6	4	29	3	0
Number of Members 12 Months in Arrears	63	21	Not given	6	16	10	Not given
Liabilities of Chapter	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Assets of Chapter	$450	$1050	$300	$300	$468	Not given	$300
Cash or Securities	$300	$700	$50	$25	$168	Not given	0
Property	$150	$200	$250	$275	$300	Not given	$300
Dues Outstanding	$190	$150	$100	$120	$85	$58	Not given
Amount of Insurance Carried	$200	$200	*	$250	$300	*	$250
Prospects of Chapter	Fair	Good	Good	Fair	Very best	Fair	Good
Can Ex. Z. work all Degrees?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Not all of R. A.	Yes
Admission Fee	$10	$10	$10	$10	$10	$10	$20

* Insured conjointly with Blue Lodge.

WILSON DISTRICT No. 3.

To the Most Excellent the Grand Z. Officers and Companions of the Grand Chapter of Canada.

I have the honor as Grand Superintendent of Wilson District, No. 3, to present my report on the condition of Capitular Masonry in this district, which embraces the following Chapters :—Harris, No. 41, Ingersoll; Oxford, No. 18, Woodstock; Ezra, No. 23, Simcoe; Mount Horeb, No. 20, Brantford; Brant, No. 116, Paris.

I have visited all the Chapters once, and it is with pleasure I am able to state that every Chapter in the district is in good working order.

The work done in the Chapters in the district is as follows: initiations, 35; affiliations, 1; restorations, 1; withdrawals, 4; deaths, 1; net iucrease during the year, 32.

Mount Horeb, No. 20, Brantford.—Visited this Chapter on Nov. 11th, and witnessed the M. E. and R. A. degrees conferred in a most perfect manner. This Chapter, I am glad to be able to report, has revived and the prospects are good. They have a very neat Chapter room of their own, and do the work well. I had the pleasure of meeting R. E. Comp. Cox, of Paris, and we spent a very pleasant time in Chapter and at the banquet afterwards. The total membership of the Chapter is 68; increase during the year, 9; meetings held, 10; average attendance, 12; annual dues, $150; number of members 12 months in arrears, 61; liabilities nil; assets, $1,000.00; cash, $25.00; dues outstanding, $183.00. The books are kept in a neat and correct manner by the S. E. Comp. W. H. Inglis, and the officers all do their work well. My visit to Mount Horeb Chapter will be remembered with pleasure.

Oxford Chapter No. 18, Woodstock. — Visited this Chapter on the 21st November, accompanied by the M. E. the Grand Z. and Comps. Dugan, McLeod and Sumner. We witnessed the M. M. degree worked, which was done in a very perfect way, by all the officers. The books are kept in a neat and creditable style by Comp H. A. Biggins, S. E. Number of meetings held during the year, 9; average attendance, 14; annual dues, $2; number of members last return, 51; candidates initiated, 3; present membership, 54; liabili-

ties, nil ; assets of Chapter, $300, cash, $50 ; dues outstanding, $51 ; insurance, $250. The prospects of Oxford Chapter are good, and the Z. and all the officers can do the work as near perfect as can be. At the banquet after Chapter was closed, we had a very pleasant time.

Brant Chapter, No 116, Paris.—Visited this Chapter on the 29th November, accompanied by Comp. Morrison, S. S., of Harris Chapter. I am sorry to say they had no work and it is hard matter to get a quorum, but they succeeded on this occasion in opening in the R. A. degree. The minutes and the business of the Chapter was gone through, after which we had a very enjoyable time in discussing Capitular Masonry. I have good reason to think Brant Chapter will soon revive and do some good work. They have had during the last year some drawbacks, but in a short time will get over the trouble. I find they are financially in a good position to have a good live Chapter, and think as long as R. E. Comp. Cox is in Paris they will not want for a Companion who will take an interest in Brant Chapter. We had a very pleasant, time with the Companions after the Chapter closed. Number of regular meetings held during the year 5, emergent 1, total 6 ; average attendance, 11 ; visitors, 1 ; annual dues, $3 ; number of members as per last return, 31 ; candidates initiated, 1 ; affiliated, 1 ; withdrawal, 1 ; present membership, 32 ; members twelve months in arrear, 14 ; liabilities, $26.50 ; assets $290.19 ; cash, $92.99 ; dues outstanding, $132.75. The books are kept on a very neat and correct system by Comp. S. C. Taylor, S. E. My visit to Brant Chapter was indeed a very pleasant one.

Ezra Chapter No. 23, Simcoe.—Visited this Chapter on December 1st, and was met at the station by R. E. Comp Christie, and after tea I was received by Ezra Chapter with honors, and witnessed the R. A. degree worked in a very pleasing manner, in fact no one could find any fault with the work. This Chapter meets in the blue room, which is very well adapted for Royal Arch work. Ezra Chapter is very prosperous, the most so of any in Wilson District, being composed of a large membership of young men, with some old heads like R. E. Comp. Christie to push on the work. When the present candidates are all initiated they will have a membership of about the round hundred. This is one of the

Chapters that the Grand Z helped to resuscitate, and the prospects now are very bright. Number of meetings held during the year, 10; emergency, 2, total 12; average attendance, 25; dues, $2, three miles out, $1.50; number members last return, 75; petitions accepted, 20; candidates initiated, 16; death, 1; present membership, 90; number of members twelve months in arrears, 10; liabilities, $35; assets, $620; cash, $220; property, $400; dues outstanding, $120; amount of insurance, $400; prospects of Chapter very bright. The officers can work all the degrees. The books are kept very neatly by Comp. W. P. Kelly, S E. After the Chapter was over we retired to the ante-room, where we enjoyed a banquet, when speech and song were in order. I enjoyed the visit very much and it will be long before I forget Ezra Chapter and the Companions in Simcoe.

Harris Chapter No. 41, Ingersoll. — Visited this my mother Chapter on December 9th and witnessed the M. E. and R. A. degrees conferred by Ex. Comp. Boles and his officers. The work was done in a very creditable manner, as it was the first after installation of the new officers. Number of meetings held during the year, 11, emergent, 1, total, 12; average attendance, 12; visitors, 3; dues, $2; number of members last return, 42; petitions accepted, 6; candidates initiated, 6; present membership, 48; degrees conferred, M. M. M., 6; M. E. M., 6; R. A., 6; number of members in arrears for twelve months, 25; property, $300; dues outstanding, $203; amount of insurance carried, $200; prospects of Chapter, fair. Officers can work all the degrees. Harris Chapter can always feel proud that we have the M. E. the Grand Z. as a father amongst us, and one who loves Capitular Masonry.

I sincerely thank the representatives who elected me to the honorable position of Grand Superintendent of the Wilson District, and in resigning my office, I cannot part without expressing my thanks for the kind and generous treatment extended to me by the officers and Companions on my official visits to the different Chapters of the district; and as I am about to hand over my regalia to my successor, I predict for him a pleasant term.

All of which is fraternally submitted,

Wm. Partlo,
Grand Superintendent,
Wilson District, No. 3.

WELLINGTON DISTRICT, No. 4.

To the Most Excellent the Grand Z. and Officers of the Grand Chapter of Canada.

I beg to submit my report as Grand Supt. of Wellington District, No. 4, for the year 1898.

Capitular Masonry in this district, on the whole, is improving. Certain Chapters show vigor and a consequent increased membership. All, with one exception, have made some progress. If the officers installed in the various positions do not accept them merely for the sake of the honor these confer, but work earnestly for the welfare of their Chapters, the general interest of the Companions will soon revive, and Capitular Masonry regain its former prestige.

I regret that I was unable to hold a Chapter of Instruction during my term of office.

I visited Ionic Chapter, No. 83, Orangeville, in June at an emergency convocation, called for the purpose of conferring the R. A. degree, but owing to the unavoidable absence of one of the candidates, no work was done. In November, I again had the pleasure of meeting the Companions of this Chapter, when the officers conferred the R. A, degree in a very creditable manner. With the cheerful assistance the officers receive from R. E. Comps. McLaren, Mann and Irvine there is no reason why Ionic should not continue to hold its position of being the banner Chapter of the district. Its prospects are good. Ex. Comp. Pyke and the Companions are splendid entertainers, and I carried away with me pleasant official and social recollections of my visits.

I visited Guelph Chapter in July, when the officers were installed by Rt. Ex. Comp. Scoon. The Chapter had then several accepted applications, and on my second visit in December worked the M. M. degree. On this occasion the First and Second Principals were absent, and R. E. Comps. Scoon and Mahoney took their places. From the manner in which the work was done by the balance of the officers, I concluded that the absent officers must also be up in their work. Both R. E. Comps. Scoon and Mahoney are regular attendants at the Chapter, and are always willing to assist in any part of the ceremonies when called upon.

I visited Enterprise Chapter, Harriston, in November,

accompanied by R. E. Comp. Mahoney, and, with his assistance, I installed the officers for the ensuing year. Enterprise Chapter has done good work in the past year, and the prospects are bright for the future. I wish to thank the Companions for the pleasant hours spent with them.

Waterloo Chapter, No. 32, Galt, has been marking time this year; having done no work. I am led to believe that with the new officers, just installed, interest will be restored, and old Waterloo once more assume the position of a live Chapter. I visited this Chapter in November. Financially the Chapter is in a good position.

Being a regular attendant of Berlin Chapter, No. 117, I can say that the work has been well done. The Chapter has been unfortunate enough in electing and installing as Third Principal a Companion who from the night he was placed in the chair never put in an appearance. With the assistance of R. E. Comp. Mahoney, I installed the newly elected officers in December, and am convinced that they will do everything in their power to advance the interests of the Chapter. Ex. Comp. Cornell has good assistants, and will make 1899 a record year.

I have written several Companions in Shelburne *re* Seymour Chapter, but have received no reply. I suggested that they call a meeting of the Companions, and let me know, when I would attend and assist them in re-organizing their Chapter if they desired, and as it has now been dormant for two years or more, and as they have only one lodge to draw members from, it would probably be well to recall this charter.

I beg to thank the Companions of the district again for electing me to the important and honorable position I have held for the past year, and also for the courtesy and warm hospitality with which I was received throughout the district.

Fraternally submitted,

ALF. OELSCHLAGER,
Grand Supt. Wellington District.

HAMILTON DISTRICT, No. 5.

To the Most Excellent the Grand Z. and Officers of the Grand Chapter of Canada.

I have the honor to submit the following brief report on the condition of Capitular Masonry in the Hamilton District No. 5.

Although the increase in membership has not been as great as might have been expected, nevertheless I think that Royal Arch Masonry in this district may be said to be in a fairly good and prosperous condition.

On the 23rd of December, by request of the M. E. the Grand Z. I visited Hiram Chapter No. 2, for the purpose of healing some Hamilton brethren belonging to the so-called Grand Chapter of Ontario. On account of certain opposition I was unable to comply with wish of the Grand Council, as the Companions declined to open the Chapter for me. While I was disappointed at meeting such a reception, I concluded I would pass it by and not aggravate in any way their imaginary grievance.

White Oak Chapter, No. 104, Oakville.—This is my own Chapter, and I have attended all the meetings; the work has been fairly well done. The present number of members is 34, and the prospects for the coming year are good. The Companions hope for a large increase this coming year. I held a special meeting on January 5th by a dispensation from the M. E. the Grand Z, and performed the ceremony of healing on the following Companions: William Amor, Robert J. Dickenson, Frank L. Nash—all of the city of Hamilton. On January 17th I healed three more Companions from that city, viz., J. Blois Smith, Alfred E. Smith and William Harper, which makes the full complement from Hamilton.

St. Clair, No. 75, Milton.—This Chapter has a membership of 17, but there has been no work done this year. The Z informed me that he considered the prospects now were much better for his Chapter than for some time back, and he has very strong hopes of several additions to the membership.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

W. A. Ferrah,
Grand Supt. Hamilton District.

HURON DISTRICT, No. 6.

To the Most Excellent the Grand Z., and Officers of the Grand Chapter of Canada

I have the honor as Superintendent of the Huron District to submit my report on Capitular Masonry.

There are eight Chapters in this district, one of which Exeter, No. 85, may be regarded as dormant, not having held a single meeting during the year.

The membership of the district is, I am sorry to state, stationary. There were 342 members in the last report and 344 now, although the prospects for an increase in 1899 seem to be good.

TECUMSEH CHAPTER, No. 24, Stratford. This Chapter was visited on the 24th November. I was accompanied by my worthy and esteemed friend and R. E. Companion Dr. Martyn, whom I regard as one of the most enthusiastic R. A. Masons in our District.

This Chapter having no work on hand exemplified the R. A. degree in a manner that could not be excelled by any other in the jurisdiction of Grand Chapter. Not only was the rendering strictly in accordance with the ritual, throughout (except in the omission of a line by the Ex. Z.), but every word could be distinctly heard anywhere in the room and no small attention, apparently, had been given to the elocutionary effect of the text. Ex. Comp. Macfadden deserves credit for the high degree of efficiency to which he has brought this Chapter in the ritualistic section of the work.

For membership and ceremonies this is certainly the banner Chapter of the district.

The Ex Z informed me that the prospects of the Chapter are bright, as there are seven candidates on the way now. The success of Tecumseh is therefore assured for a time at least. At the close of the Chapter the Companions retired to the banquet room where the usual attention was given to the bivalves, etc.

LEBANON CHAPTER, No. 84, Wingham. I attended the regular Convocation of this Chapter in December. The attendance was not large, but harmony seemed to prevail

among its members. The election of officers created quite a lively time for a while, but all seemed pleased with the results. As far as work is concerned this Chapter evidently has been holidaying all the year, having held only four meetings.

The M.M.M. degree was put on, and conferred in a manner that showed that the Companions must have been pretty well grounded in the ritual. The names of R. Ex. Comp. J. A. Morton and Ex. Comp. Tamblyn need only to be mentioned to show the guiding stars for the men of Lebanon. The prospects of this Chapter are brightening, but I would strongly recommend this, as well as other Chapters, to open up at every regular convocation whether there be business or not.

St. James, No. 46, St. Mary's. I visited this Chapter at a special convocation held in December. Met R. E. Comp. H. Fred. Sharp, whose interest in R. A. Masonry seems to be unflagging. The Chapter conferred the R. A. degree, and I must confess that in common with several other Chapters of the district the work was very well done. This Chapter has a small membership, but I am informed the prospects for the coming year are good. We had a very good meeting and the members promised to make a struggle for reinforcements for '99. The books of the Scribe E. are neatly and methodically kept.

Huron Chapter, No. 30, Goderich. Visited Goderich by special appointment, but was informed by the Scribe E. Companion Rhynas, that owing to some attractions in the town there was no probability of having a meeting, so I withdrew on the next train. By the monthly summons received from the S. E. of No. 30, I am satisfied that this Chapter has been employed more or less during the year, and am informed that the prospects are improving.

Havelock Chapter, No. 63, Kincardine. Visited this Chapter at the October Convocation. Attendance was fairly good considering the inclemency of the weather. Had a very good meeting, R. Ex. Comp. Dr. Martyn, one of the pioneer members of this Chapter, was present. The officers in charge of the Exaltation showed a fair degree of efficiency. This Chapter has without a doubt, like other Chapters in the jurisdiction, contracted the dry rot for want of material to work up. In the days gone by, when the late V. Ex. Comp. B. Freer, was First Principal, Havelock was referred to by the

Grand Superintendent as the banner Chapter of the district. By a change of officers and a general shaking up of the dry bones, we hope to see a decided improvement in this Chapter before the expiry of another year. With such men as R. E. Comp. Scott at the head of affairs this Chapter is bound to advance in good form.

EXETER CHAPTER, No. 85, is no doubt dead and only awaits a burial. I received a long communication from Comp. McLeod, S. E., in which not much hope is held out for the resuscitation of this dormant Chapter.

SAUGEEN CHAPTER, No. 50, Mitchell. Visited this Chapter at the April Convocation in company with R. Ex. Comp. DeWitt H. Martyn, P. G. Supt. Witnessed an exaltation in which the ceremony was performed very satisfactorily. Whilst the work might be improved on by some of the subordinate officers, yet I noticed that all the staff seemed sufficiently interested to put forth their best efforts on the occasion.

This Chapter is welll worked and the Companions seemed to act very harmoniously in the general management of its affairs. The number of applicants for the degrees has been small during the year, but better days are looked for in this respect in the near future. Comp W. Babb, Scribe E., is a live officer, and worthy of the confidence of his Companions.

MALLOCH CHAPTER, No. 66, Seaforth. Visited this Chapter at the October Convocation. A very fair turnout of Companions honored the occasion. The Ex. Z. conferred the R. A degree, and considering that a number of the regular officers were absent the work was very well done. This Chapter has not been doing much during the year, but I am pleased to report that the Companions are very hopeful of increasing their membership during the coming year. R. Ex. Hodgins is regarded as one of the pillars of this institution. The S. E. Comp. Jackson submitted his books for inspection, and I am pleased to report them kept in a very tidy manner.

In conclusion I desire to return my sincere thanks to the Companions of the Huron District for the kindness and courtesy extended to me during my term of office, and I sincerely hope that my successor will be able to report greater progress for the coming year.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

R. D. HALL,

Grand Supt., Huron District.

HURON DISTRICT, No. 6.

Chapter.	No.	Meetings, Reg.	Meetings, Special.	Meetings, Total.	Attendance, Average.	Attendance, Visitors.	Annual Dues.	Members Last Return.	Petitions Accepted.	Initiated.	Applications.	Restoration.	Withdrawals.	Suspensions.	Deaths.	Present Membership.	Degrees, M. M. M.	Degrees, M. E. M.	Degrees, R. A.	Liabilities.	Liabilites.	Assets.	Cash.	Property.	Dues Unpaid.	Insurance.	Prospects.	Re Z.
Tecumseh	24	10	1	11	11	1	$1 50	110	1	1	1	..	1	..	2	109	1	1	2	25	Nil.	$400 00	$143 00	$200 00	$118 50	None.	Good.	Yes.
Huron	30	9	4	13	17	2	2 00	50	4	4	..	1	..	6	..	49	4	4	4	10	.....	275 00	20 00	.....	60 00	$200 00	Fair.	Yes.
St. James	46	5	2	7	11	1	1 00	23	1	1	..	..	..	..	1	24	1	1	2	....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Good.	Yes.
Saugeen	50	11	..	11	10	5	3 00	23	5	3	..	..	..	..	..	26	3	4	4	6	$13 00	.....	48 49	.....	43 75	.....	Good.	No.
Havelock	63	11	1	12	14	1	2 00	49	3	3	1	..	1	..	2	51	3	3	2	20	.....	.....	.....	200 00	120 00	300 00	Good.	Yes.
Malloch	66	8	3	11	12	1	3 00	29	2	2	1	..	..	2	1	29	2	2	2	10	.....	180 00	35 00	.....	35 00	100 00	Bright.	Yes.
Lebanon	84	4	..	4	11	2	3 00	32	2	2	..	..	2	..	..	32	2	1	1	6	20 00	.....	65 00	100 00	35 00	.....	Fair.	Yes.
Exeter	85	..	..	..	..	..	2 00	26	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	24	..	.	..	All	Per cap 2 years.	75 00	15 00	75 00	.....	50 00	No Good.	Yes.

NIAGARA DISTRICT, No. 7.

To the Most Excellent the Grand Z., Principals and Officers of the Grand Chapter of Canada.

I beg to submit herewith my report on the condition of Capitular Masonry in the Niagara District, which is composed of seven Chapters, viz.: Mount Moriah, No. 19, St. Catharines; McCallum, No. 29, Dunnville; Niagara, No. 55, Niagara; King Hiram, No. 57, Port Colborne; Willson, No. 64, Welland; Grimsby, No. 69, Grimsby; Mount Nebo, No. 76, Niagara Falls South.

I have visited all these Chapters with the exception of the one at Grimsby, and Willson Chapter, Welland. With reference to the former, I may say that although I have succeeded in getting them to hold a meeting (the first for some time, and for which I must thank R. E. Comp. William Gibson, of Beamsville, for his valuable assistance), I have not been equally fortunate in obtaining from them an invitation to pay an official visit. I am pleased, however, to report that they have made a fresh start, and while no returns have been sent in to me, I doubt not that now that R. E. Comp. W. Forbes, who has the welfare of the Chapter at heart, has taken the matter up, my successor's report on this Chapter in the future will be more favorable than mine now is.

Regarding Willson Chapter, Welland, I regret to say that they were burnt out early in the year, losing everything, and having let their insurance expire, they have not been able to get on their feet again as soon as they otherwise would. It is needless to say that they have the sympathy of the whole district, and to those who have had the pleasure of seeing them do their work and have been recipients of their whole-souled hospitality, it was doubly painful to hear of their distress. I have had frequent correspondence with E. Comp. Crow, trying to get a meeting, and can testify to his earnest endeavors to bring one about, even in their present disabled condition.

In order to thresh out an old time cry, that Mount Nebo Chapter should be moved from Niagara Falls South (Drummondville) to Clifton, I had the pleasure of accompanying the M. E. the Grand Z. to that place on 1st April last, and after going into the matter thoroughly, we came to the conclusion

that no change could be made. We found that while little or no work had been done for some time past, that, nevertheless, the Companions had lots of life in them and were willing to exemplify a degree for our satisfaction if necessary. The hour being late, however, the M. E. Grand Z. did not ask them to do so, and we adjourned to the banquet room instead. The books were in excellent shape, under the care of E. Comp. Hyett, who, with E. Comp. Collins, has the reputation of never missing a meeting.

On 23rd September I visited Mount Moriah Chapter, St. Catharines, and had the pleasure of seeing the M. E. M. degree conferred in their usual excellent manner. The books were in first class order under the care of Comp. W. H. Read, and it was a source of great delight to spend such a pleasant evening, as I did, with the Companions of this well known Chapter.

On 6th October I again was favored by accompanying the M. E. the Grand Z. to the old historic town of Niagara where we were met by R. E Comp. Congdon (who having promised to go with me, got there, part of the way on foot, having missed connection at the "Bridge"), R. E. Comp. Burch and other Companions from St. Catharines. We visited Niagara Chapter when the M. M. degree was conferred on two candidates in a very creditable manner, considering the time the Companions, most of whom are away from home during the summer, had for getting the work up. We were royally received, and our thanks are due not only to the First Principal, the Rev. J. C. Garrett, R. E. Comp. Clement, and the rest of the Companions, but also to Comp. Best, who, as Mayor of the town, arranged for the electric lights to run after the usual hour for our convenience.

On 2nd December, I visited my mother Chapter, McCallum, No. 29, and received a most flattering welcome. There was no work to be done, but had there been, I have no hesitation in saying that the well known reputation of the Chapter would have been fully sustained by E. Comp. Sheehan, the First Principal, and the rest of the Companions.

On 5th January, 1899, accompanied by Comp. Arderley, I visited King Hiram Chapter, Port Colborne, and witnessed the conferring of the M. M. degree in a most satisfactory manner. This Chapter had their warrant withdrawn, but I am glad to say that since its restoration they have shown their

ability to make the Chapter a success, and with the zealous Companions at its head their future welfare is, I am satisfied, assured.

At every Chapter visited, the Companions, especially the older ones, were most pronounced in their regrets that the M. E. M. degree had been so cut down, and also on account of the elimination of the P. M. degree, which they say it is quite necessary to have in order to enable a Companion to visit in New York and other States of the adjoining republic, and as I promised to make mention of their grievances, I now beg to lay the matter before you.

In conclusion, I desire to thank the Principals and Companions of the several Chapters for the kindness, assistance and hospitality extended to me on the occasion of my official visits, and I have pleasure in stating that, from what I saw, there is no reason why the prospects for the Royal Craft in this district should not be of the brightest for the future, and I am satisfied that with a little encouragement from my successor, my faith in the ability of the several Chapters will find its verification.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

R. G. W. Conolly,
Grand Supt. Niagara District, No. 7.

TORONTO DISTRICT, No. 8.

To the Most Excellent the Grand Z. Principals and Officers of the Grand Chapter of Canada:

I beg to present my report on the condition of Capitular Masonry in Toronto District No. 8, composed of eight Chapters as follows: St. Andrew's and St. John's, No. 4; King Solomon's, No. 8; Doric, No. 60; York, No. 62; St. Paul's, No. 65; Occident, No. 77; Orient, No. 79, and Antiquity, No. 91.

I had much pleasure in appointing Ex. Comp. J. S. Lovell, District Secretary. Before visiting any of the Chapters I called a meeting of all the Principals in my district. At that meeting R. E. Comp. Horwood kindly consented to preside and to attend to the duties that I should have performed as

important business called me from the city that day. This meeting was productive of much good generally and among other important matters it was decided to advise the Chapters to raise the fee for initiation to not less than fifteen dollars. They also decided to hold a Chapter of Instruction, which was held May the 31st, of which I will speak in due course. As a result all the Chapters in the city except St. Paul's, which had not reduced the fee, have raised the initiation fee, some making it fifteen dollars and others twenty dollars including an apron and sash.

On examining the reports of the different Chapters it would appear that there was a large amount of outstanding dues, but this I find is really not the case except in one or two instances, as upon enquiring I am informed that most of the Companions are in the habit of paying their dues at the January meeting at the time of installation, and especially is this the case with York Chapter in North Toronto, and if the yearly dues are deducted from the amount owing there would then only be a very small amount outstanding. Every Chapter except one has increased its numbers this year and the prospects for all are very good. I would advise these Chapters who have not their money properly banked to do so in a satisfactory manner

St Andrew's and St. John's, No. 4. I visited this Chapter several times during the year and at all my visits the work was well and carefully performed. The Ex. Z. Comp. Jones is a most energetic officer and is fully supported by the others who are well up in the work, especially was this noticeable at the Chapter of Instruction held in Occident Hall on May 31st, when Ex. Comp. Jones and his efficient officers were selected to work the M. E. M. degree. Ex. Comp. Clewlo's work being perfect deserves special praise. Ex. Comp. Jones in preparing the work for this degree introduced new musical features by the choir of St. Andrew's and St. John's Chapter, under the leadership of Comp. Evans. A solo on this occasion was also excellently rendered by Comp. G. W. Grant, which greatly improved the effect of the working of the degree. At this meeting the three Grand Principals were present and justly praised the work of the evening and of the officers who took part. Ex. Comp. Jones and his officers accompanied me on my visit to Newmarket and conferred the M. M. M. and M. E. M. degrees on thirteen candidates in a style most satisactory to the officers and Companions of that Chapter.

I examined the books and found them very neat and carefully kept, and not a little of the success of this Chapter this year is due to the energy of the Scribe E. Comp. H. T. Smith, and I prophesy from the quality of the present officers that nothing but prosperity is in store for this old Chapter. The attendance at all my visits has been very good. The finances are also good. I feel grateful to the Companions of this Chapter for the kindly reception accorded to me at all times.

King Solomon's, No. 8. This being the Chapter of which I am a member I attended most of its regular and emergent convocations, the work on all occasions was well performed and especialiy at the regular meetings. Sixteen meetings being held during the year, eleven regular and five emergent. Forty-eight petitions were accepted, thirty-five initiated, and all received the R. A. degree except one. I am pleased to say that the quality of the new members is fully equal to previous years, most of them being young and energetic and will no doubt reflect credit on the Chapter. This large amount of work has not been performed without a great amount of energetic determination on the part of the officers who have all shown an earnest desire to have the Chapter prosper and do good work, and especially is this the case with the Ex. Z. Comp. Porteous, who is able to work all the degrees, performing not only the work allotted to his office, but he is quite able to do any other officer's work if necessary. While he has been very attentive to his own Chapter he has attended the meetings of several others and has always being ready and willing to assist on all occasions. The books of this Chapter are carefully looked after by the old and reliable Scribe E. Comp. Roberts, who for a number of years has performed this duty to the best of his ability. The Chapter is in a very good condition, financially and otherwise. The attendance is good and to all appearances will continue to prosper as there is no doubt but that the incoming officers will be as earnest in their desire for the prosperity of the Chapter as those who are just vacating the chairs.

Doric, No. 60, Newmarket. After writing to the Ex. Z. and Scribe E. I visited this Chapter on April the 8th, leaving here in the morning, and had the pleasure of a large number of the Toronto Companions with me, including R E. Comp. Horwood, E. Comp. Jones and officers of St. Andrew's and St. John's Chapter, and E. Comp. Porteous, the officers and

members of King Solomon's Chapter. On our arrival at Newmarket we were met by R. E. Comp. T. W. Brunton, the Ex. Z. and officers of this Chapter, who received us in a most cordial and fraternal manner and after we had partaken of dinner, especially prepared, we went to the hall at 2 p.m. and there met a number of the Companions together with thirteen brethren desirous of receiving the degrees This large number of candidates being present at that hour shows the energy displayed by R. E. Comp. Brunton, who had made most perfect arrangements. The Chapter being duly opened the work of the M. M. M. and M. E. M. was exceeding well conferred by E. Comp. Jones, E. Comp. Clewlo and the officers of St. Andrew's and St John's Chapters upon all the candidates. The degree of the R. A. was then conferred upon the same candidates by Ex. Comp. Porteous of King Solomon's Chapter, his officers assisting, whose work was much admired by all the Companions present. This large addition to the Chapter has put new life into it and R. E. Comp. Brunton has kept up the enthusiasm and has added quite a number since. The Chapter is much indebted to this R. E. Companion for his untiring efforts for its welfare. I am pleased to report that everything looks very bright, nothing but prosperity appearing in view as most of the new members have joined hands with the old ones and all seem to have the one object in view and that for the good of the Chapter.

York, No. 62. I visited this Chapter at its regular meeting, Oct 6th, and was a little disappointed at the small attendance, but found that those present were sufficiently enthusiastic to make up for the absent ones. After the Chapter was duly opened and the routine business disposed of, matters of general interest were discussed and principally as to the best means of adding numbers to the Chapter as they had only one Lodge to draw from and not even that as their jurisdiction did not extend as far as the Lodge. It was then considered advisable by all present to endeavor to secure concurrent jurisdiction with the city Chapters, feeling sure that this would be the only thing that would make a lasting improvement. For this purpose a committee was appointed, I being requested to act as a member. Our first work was to ask permission from all the Chapters in the city, and to our requests they one and all gave their consent cheerfully, not a single Companion in the whole district making the slightest

objection, and all expressed a hope that the prayer of York Chapter would be granted by Grand Chapter. The last consent being received November 29th I accordingly sent the communications received from each Chapter to the Grand Scribe E. to be forwarded to M. E. Comp. Walsh, G.Z. The Chapters at the time of granting their consent expressed a hope that York Chapter might have a prosperous future. On December the 3rd, this Chapter received from the Grand First Principal "through the Grand Scribe E.," his consent to their right and privilege of concurrent jurisdiction with the city Chapters to remain in force until the next meeting of the Grand Chapter, and there to be finally disposed of. This information was received by the members of York Chapter with much rejoicing, and they have since that time had a revival and have already added six members to their numbers, and now see plenty of work before them, and I fully predict for York Chapter a prosperous future, and hope the Grand Chapter will fully sustain the action of the Grand First Principal at the next meeting.

St. Paul's, No. 65. I had the pleasure of visiting this noted Chapter three times during the year, and what appeared most noticeable next to their good work was the great harmony that prevailed among the officers and members, Ex. Comp. Harcourt and his officers having fully retained the notoriety that Chapter has attained for a careful and accurate manner of conferring the degrees. My first visit was at their regular convocation in May. At this meeting they were honored by a visit from M. Ex. Comp. M. Walsh, G. Z.; Rt. Ex Comp. W. G. Reid, G. H.; and Rt. Ex. Comp. G. F. Shepley, G. J.; V. Ex. Comp. R. Donald and other Grand Chapter officers, also the Ex. First Principals of King Solomon's, St. Andrew's and St. John's, Orient and York Chapters, together with their officers and members, and with a number of other visitors enjoyed the perfect work of the evening. On this occasion the R. A. degree was conferred on two candidates, who seemed greatly impressed, and I am unable to add anything to the justly deserved praise given to the Ex. Z. and his officers by M. Ex. Comp. Walsh, R. E. Comp. Reid, and R. E. Comp. Shepley on this occasion. The perfect manner in which they performed the work in this Chapter is unequalled by any other Chapter in this district, and could only be attained by regular and continual rehearsals,

and by the assistance of most of the Past Zs., and particularly R. E. Comp. B. Allen, who is never so happy as when working for the good of Masonry, and who is always present with his valued advice and experience. Six candidates were proposed for membership at this meeting.

My last visit to this Chapter was on December the 14th, when the officers for the ensuring year were elected. Every officer received the unanimous vote of the Chapter which goes to show the unanimity and good feeling that exists among the members. Three candidates were exalted that evening.

On glancing over the books I found them neatly and correctly kept. that thirteen candidates were advanced during the year, and that the membership is ninety-eight, being an increase of nine over the preceding year. An interesting feature of the evening was the presentation by Comp. John F. Lash of the regalia and jewels of Comp the late Rt. Hon. Sir John A. Macdonald, G.C.B., to Comp. K. J Dunstan. The usual hospitable entertainment brought to a close one of the most successful meetings of the year.

Occident No. 77.—I was always pleased to visit this Chapter, which I did several times during the year. Ex. Comp. J. J. Thompson and the other officers present were always very proficient in the degree work, and the business was conducted in perfect harmony. My predecessor prophesied this time last year that the Ex Z. elect would have a prosperous year. His predictions have been fully verified, as Ex. Comp. Thompson has no equal as an energetic worker, and he has left no stone unturned in his endeavors to make the Chapter prosperous financially and otherwise. He has been well supported by most of his officers, and especially by Ex. Comp. Clemens, whose good work was noted for its accuracy. Comp. Drew as P. S. has few equals, and the Chapter was very fortunate in their choice of Scribe E. Comp. Luke whose books are a pattern of neatness and he was always present doing his utmost to promote the interests of the Chapter. From my knowledge of the officers elect I predict another very prosperous year. This Chapter was selected to conduct the Chapter of Instruction, and under whose warrant it was held on May the 31st, their officers being selected to exemplify the work of the M. M. M. degree, which they did to the entire satisfaction of the district. At this meeting the M. E. Grand Z. Comp. M. Walsh, R. E. Comp. W. G. Reid, and R.

E. Comp G. F. Shepley were present, and after they had witnessed the work, justly praised E. Comp. Thompson and his officers for the very proficient manner in which it was performed. The Chapter being duly closed all adjourned to the banquet room, and were entertained in a most enjoyable manner, everyone being fully satisfied that the meeting was a great success.

ORIENT No. 79.—My first visit to this hCapter was on March the 24th, and although several candidates were to be on hand none of them came, and, in consequence, I did not have the pleasure of witnessing their work that evening, but I took this opportuuity to examine their books, which I found very carefully kept and evidently correct. This Chapter is to be congratulated on having one of the most careful and accurate Scribes in Ex. Comp. R. J. Beeman, whose books are very clean and neatly kept, and he is noted for being regular and early in attendance. At my next meeting I had the pleasure of witnessing some degree work, Ex. Comp. Mason being a very correct worker, and so are most of his officers. A few rehearsals would add very much to their efficienco. The Ex. Z has worked very hard to add to their numbers, but as it meets in the extreme east and only one Lodge being in that part of the city, he has found it rather difficult, but has succeeded in adding eight good members; but I think his next year will undoubtedly be a greater success, he having been re elected, and in consequence the experience of this year will greatly assist him.

ANTIQUITY No. 91.—This Chapter meets in the extreme west end of the city and most of its members live in that locality. Its meetings are very harmonious and fairly well attended, its business well conducted and it is financially sound, with a smaller amount of outstanding dues than most of the other Chapters. The books of this Chapter seem to be very accurately kept and for neatness they are unsurpassed, and the Chapter has been very fortunate in having such an industrious and capable Comp. as Comp. F. Blackburne for the Scribe E. for the last two years. The Ex. Z. Ex. Comp. Donovan makes a first class presiding officer and is well posted in the work, but he has been much hindered by his business requiring him to move to Hamilton shortly after his installation, yet he has attended the meetings very regularly and with much inconvenience to himself.

The Chapter has been fortunate in having Ex. Comp. Lake as Third Principal, who is most enthusiastic and painstaking in everything pertaining to the good of the Chapter, and attending to most of the First Principal's duties in his absence. I had the pleasure of witnessing his work in the M. M. M. degree, which he performed in an excellent, correct and impressive manner. This Chapter has among its Past Zs. some of the best ritualists and workers in this district: Rt. Ex. Companions G. J. Bennett, W. Walker and Dr. Rowe being most enthusiastic Royal Arch Masons, and with Past First Principals of this kind it is no wonder that they do good work and always have interesting meetings, and I prophesy for this Chapter a continuation of their prosperity.

In conclusion, I sincerely thank the many Companions who have helped to make my duties pleasant by their kindly assistance and advice, and especially my predecessor, Rt. Ex. Comp. Horwood. The many kind receptions that I have experienced on my visits will always be fresh in my memory as one of the most pleasant years of my life.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

N. T. Lyon,
Grand Supt. Toronto District No. 8.

TORONTO DISTRICT, No. 8.

No.	Name of Chapter.	Location.	Meetings.					Annual Dues.	No. of Members last Return.								Present Membership.	Degrees Conferr'd			Members 12 Months in Arrears.	Liabilities.	Assets.	Dues Outstanding.	Amount of Insurance.	Can Ex. Z. Work Degrees.	Prospects.
			Regular.	Emergent.	Total	Average Attendance.	Visitors.			Petitions Accepted.	Candidates Initiated.	Applications.	Restorations.	Withdrawals.	Suspensions.	Deaths.		M. M. M.	M. E. M.	R. A.							
4	St. Andrews & St. John's	Toronto	10	....	10	25	8	$3 00	112	30	13	1	..	3	..	3	120	13	13	10	32	.....	$569 23	$378 05	.....	Yes	Excellent.
8	King Solomon's	"	11	5	16	31	5	3 00	167	48	35	..	..	7	..	2	193	35	34	34	18	.....	885 00	320 00	.....	Yes	Very good.
60	Doric	Newmarket	9	....	9	15	2	1 25	37	17	17	..	..	..	..	..	54	17	17	17	..	.....	500 00	100 00	$300 00	Yes	Looks very bright.
65	St. Paul's	Toronto	10	3	13	20	5	4 00	89	13	13	1	..	2	2	1	98	13	13	10	4	.....	1169 18	102 30	250 00	Yes	Could not be better.
62	York	North Toronto	9	1	10	11	1	3 00	42	7	4	..	..	2	9	1	34	4	4	4	18	$102 50	122 97	137 64	.....	Yes	Good.
77	Occident	Toronto	11	3	14	19	12	3 00	56	22	10	..	..	2	..	2	62	10	11	9	19	.....	135 00	160 00	.....	Yes	Very good.
79	Orient	"	12	2	14	17	4	3 00	80	15	8	1	..	3	..	2	84	8	8	10	52	40 00	500 00	375 00	100 00	Yes	Very good indeed.
91	Antiquity	"	10	3	13	18	3	3 00	79	18	12	1	1	4	6	..	83	12	9	9	8	.....	527 00	97 00	400 00	Yes	Excellent.

N. T. LYON,

Grand Supt., Toronto District.

GEORGIAN DISTRICT No. 9.

To the Most Excellent the Grand Z. and the Officers of the Grand Chapter of Canada.

In submitting my report on the condition of Capitular Masonry in the Georgian District I regret that through circumstances over which I have had no control I have been able to visit only two Chapters in the district.

In the month of July last I visited Grand River Chapter No. 70, Bracebridge. I find the books in good shape, and while there was no work, there was a fair attendance and the opening and closing was well done. R. Ex.-Comp. Huber being a member of this Chapter gives a great deal of attention to this work, and the prospects are good.

In January I installed the officers of Signet Chapter No. 34, Barrie. This being my mother Chapter, I have had ample opportunity of seeing how the work is done. They have had a number of exaltations during the year. The books are well kept and the prospects are of the best.

I have not received notices of meeting regularly from Georgian Chapter, Owen Sound, or from Macpherson Chapter, Meaford.

I nnderstand good work is being done in Manitou Chapter, Collingwood, and St. John's Chapter, North Bay, although I regret I cannot give full reports from either. I hope, however, to be able to give tabular statements with this report.

All of which is fraternally submitted.

R. J. Fraser,

Grand Superintendent, Georgian District No. 9.

ONTARIO DISTRICT No. 10.

To the Most Excellent the Grand Z. and the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Mason's of Canada.

The undersigned in his capacity of Grand Superintendent of Ontario District, No. 10, begs to report upon the condition of Royal Arch Masonry within his jutisdiction for the year 1898, as follows:

The names and locations of the 8 Chapters included in this district are, No. 28, Pentalpha, Oshawa; No. 35, Keystone, Whitby; No. 36, Corinthian, Peterboro'; No. 37, Victoria, Port Hope; No. 45, Excelsior, Colborne; No. 48, St. John's, Cobourg; No. 49, Midland, Lindsay; and No. 110, Warkworth, Warkworth.

During the year 1898 I visited all of these except the last named, which I was unable to visit, owing to the failure of the Chapter to secure a meeting at any of the several dates agreed upon from time to time during the year.

I am pleased to be able to report that several of the Chapters in this district show an encouraging improvement in their condition as compared with that disclosed by the last report, and the outlook for the whole district is a cheering one.

I find the personel of each of the Chapters visited to be of so satisfactory a character as to convince me that there is no dearth of good material in any of them for an efficient staff of officers. If there is in some cases a laxity in securing a proper number of meetings and an adequate attendance, it is often owing to the fact that the members are busy men, whose standing in the community imposes upon them many duties which make it difficult to keep important engagements from conflicting with their regular attendance at the Chapter.

Irregularity in meetings must not, therefore, I find, be accepted as conclusive proof that a Chapter is in a moribund condition or that it has lost its hold and influence.

The Chapter of Instruction for this district held last year at Port Hope proved widely beneficial, and I strongly recommend the holding of another at the same town in or about the month of June next. The date should be fixed early in the year in order to secure a good attendance. Port Hope is centrally located, and the Chapter there, which is a strong one, has requested such a meeting.

We in this district feel particularly gratified at having been honored during the year by four official visits of the Grand Z, who was present at the time of my visits at Lindsay, Peterboro', Cobourg and Oshawa.

The condition in detail of the Chapters as ascertained by actual inspection and inquiry during my visits is hereinafter set forth.

Keystone No. 35, Whitby, was visited by me in April and December. The attendance was good at both meetings,

and the Royal Arch degree was worked in both cases in a manner creditable to the officers. On the second visit I was accompanied by a number of Past Principals and other officers of my own Chapter, Pentalpha, No. 28, and was assisted in the work of installing the officers by Ex. Comp. L. K. Murton of that Chapter. A very pleasant social reunion of the resident and visiting Companions took place after the close of the meeting. This Chapter has resumed its old place in the front rank among the Chapters of the district.

Victoria, No. 37, Port Hope.—This Chapter is strong in numbers, material and equipment and is growing vigorously. It is fortunate in the possession of such experienced, enthusiastic and capable workers as V. E. Comp. Dr. Might and others, who attend nearly every meeting, thus securing very accurate work and aiding much in keeping alive the interest of the members. Both the M. M. M. and R. A. degrees were worked on the occasion of my visit.

Corinthian No. 36, Peterboro'.—I found a large attendance at the meeting of this Chapter, and the working of the R. A. degree was simply faultless. R. Ex. Comps. Wood and Morrow, former Grand Superintendents of this district, are members of this Chapter and were present at the meeting. The condition of the Chapter is eminently satisfactory.

St. John's, No. 48, Cobourg.—The attendance at my meeting with this Chapter was over 50, and both Port Hope and Colborne Chapters were represented by a number of visiting Companions. The R. A. degree was worked, and while the work as a whole was excellent, I cannot refrain from referring to the specially admirable character of the work done by Prof. L. E. Horning, the First Principal, and Dr. A. H. Rayner, the Third Principal. The activity, energy and enthusiasm of the members of this Chapter are a source of new inspiration to every one who visits them.

Excelsior, No. 45, Colborne.—The attendance at the time of my visit was twenty-five, and included among the visitors, R. E. Comps. Craig and Hargraft, of Cobourg, also R. E. Comp. W. J. Robertson, of Port Hope, G. S. N. The work of the R. A. degree was executed in a satisfactory manner. I find the Chapter in capital working order, and determined to maintain its rank among the most efficient in the district. Their hospitality was of the most bountiful

kind, and it is not surprising that I find this Chapter one of the most popular in Ontario District.

MIDLAND, No. 94, Lindsay.—Owing to some unfavorable reports previously made of this Chapter, I called on a number of the members at their places of business before the meeting, and was greeted with an attendance of twenty-five on the opening of the Chapter. The M. E. M. degree was worked, but in a manner which indicated the necessity for more frequent meetings to rub off the rust. I am assured, however, that the officers have their work up better in the other two degrees, and from the promises of better things made by the Companions, I have strong hopes that this Chapter, which contains good material, will, during next year, take the advanced position which it is capable of attaining. R E. Comp. Dingle, Past Z. of this Chapter, deserves credit for the efforts put forth by him to secure more efficiency in the working of the Chapter, and it is hoped that those efforts will henceforth be more heartily seconded by the membership.

WARKWORTH, No. 110.—This Chapter, while not visited by me for the reasons previously stated, is, as its report shows and as I am otherwise credibly informed, in a fairly healthy condition.

PENTALPHA, No. 28, Oshawa.—There was a good attendance at this Chapter on the occasion of the visit of M. E. Comp Walsh, Grand Z, and four candidates were exalted. The membership is steadily increasing and the outlook is encouraging.

The visits of the Grand Z. and his addresses to the Chapters were highly appreciated and will prove most stimulating.

The Scribes of the several Chapters have all been very prompt and painstaking in their official work, and I wish to return my sincere thanks to the Companions of this district for their kind attentions and efficient co-operation.

I annex hereto a tabulated statement showing the standing of the several Chapters.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

Dated at Oshawa this 31st day of December, 1898.

A. E. HENRY,

Grand Supt. Ontario District, No. 10.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

Showing Condition of the Chapters in Ontario District during the year 1898.

No.	Name of Chapter.	No. of Regular Meetings.	No. of Emergent Meetings.	Total No. of Meetings.	Average Attendance of Members.	Average Attendance of Visitors.	No. of Members as per Last Return.	No. of Petitions Accepted.	Candidates Initiated.	No. of Affiliations.	No. of Restorations.	No. of Withdrawals.	No. of Suspensions.	No. of Deaths	Present Membership.	M. M. Degrees Conferred.	M. E. M. Degrees Conferred.	R. A. Degrees Conferred.	No. of Members 12 Months in Arrears of Dues.	Liabilities.	Assets.	In Cash.	In Property.	Dues Outstanding.	Amount of Insurance.	Prospects.	Can Ex. Z. work all the Degrees.
28	Pentalpha	8	2	10	15	3	39	6	6	0	0	0	0	1	44	6	6	6	27	Nil.	$475 00	$ 75 00	$400 00	$ 99 14	$200 00	Good.	Yes.
35	Keystone	8	0	8	11	2	41	..	8	0	0	0	0	0	49	7	8	8	....	Nil.	300 00	.....	.00 00	Nil.	200 00	Bright	Yes.
36	Corinthian	10	2	12	18	1	66	6	6	0	0	4	0	0	68	6	6	7	12	Nil.	500 00	76 12	500 00	96 05	Joint with Lodge.	Good.	Yes.
37	Victoria	12	1	13	20	2	44	11	10	0	1	1	0	0	55	10	10	10	16	Nil.	760 00	260 00	500 00	139 75	$2200 00 300 00	Good.	Yes.
48	St. John's	11	2	13	15	3	39	2	5	0	0	1	0	1	42	5	5	5	3	Nil.	200 00	.....	200 00	40 00	.....	Very good.	Yes.
45	Excelsior	9	0	9	13	2	58	3	3	0	0	1	1	0	59	3	3	3	0	Nil.	187 00	40 00	.....	12 00	150 00	Good.	Yes.
94	Midland	7	1	8	13	1	40	5	4	0	0	1	0	0	43	4	3	2	1	$28 10	243 36	19 36	200 00	24 00	150 00	Good.	Not all.
110	Warkworth	5	0	5	12	2	31	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	35	4	4	4	0	Nil.	150 00	25 00	125 00	.....	None.	Good.	Yes.

Certified as a correct summary of the returns made to me by the Chapters above indicated.

A. E. HENRY.

Grand Supt., Ontario District, No. 10.

PRINCE EDWARD DISTRICT No. 11.

To the Most Excellent the Grand Z. aud Officers of the Grand Chapter of Canada.

I hereby beg leave to submit my report on the condition of Capitular Masonry in this district.

This district comprises five Chapters as follows: Moira No. 7 at Belleville, St. Mark's No. 26 at Trenton, Prince Edward No. 31 at Picton, Mount Sinai No. 44 at Napanee, and Keystone No. 72 at Stirling.

St. Mark's No. 26, Trenton.—I had the pleasure of officially visiting this Chapter on June 17th, in company with the M. E. the Grand Z., Ex.-Comp. McKeown, and officers of Moira Chapter No. 7, Belleville. The R. A. Degree was conferred by Ex.-Comp. J. D. Walker and officers in a very satisfactory manner indeed, and I a pleased to say that more heart and interest is now manifesting itself among the Companions, and that they are in a good financial condition.

Keystone No. 72, Stirling,—Was officially visited by the M. E. the Grand Z. on June 16th. I had the pleasure of being present, but, as this is my mother Chapter, the Companions desired me to visit them officially on another occasion, which I did, viz., on July 29th. A candidate was expected to have been exalted then, but disappointed. The work, however, was gone on with by Ex.-Comp. Dr. Micklejohn and officers in a very creditable manner. Although this Chapter is very young and the members well spread through the country, they are in a prosperous condition.

Moira No. 7, Belleville.—I visited this Chapter on November 1st in my official capacity and was pleased to find so many Companions present. The R. A. Degree was worked in an excellent manner by Ex. Comp. William McKeown and officers. This Chapter appeared to me the best I had visited, and I must compliment Ex.-Comp. McKeown for his interest in the work and the manner in which he and his officers received me,

Prince Edward, No. 31, Picton.—On November 28th I started to make an official visit to this Chapter, but by the mishap of the boat leaving before the proper or stated time I

only got as far as Belleville. I was very much disappointed, as I understand this is an A.1. Chapter, and was all ready to give me a fraternal welcome.

MOUNT SINAI No. 44, Napanee.—I do not know whether this Chapter is living or not. I have not been able to get any word or notice from them, and have tried my utmost to get communication with the Chapter, not only by writing four or five times but by sending word with special messenger, all of no avail.

I endeavored to get all Chapters of this district together for a Chapter of Instruction at Trenton on November 14th, and although all were notified, only those from Belleville, Stirling and Trenton were present. I regret that the M. E. the Grand Z. was unable to be with us.

The M. M. M degree was conferred by the officers of St. Mark's Chapter No. 26, the M. E. M. degree by the officers of Keystone Chapter No. 72, and the R. A. degree by the officers of Moira Chapter No. 7. I must say that these Chapters deserve a great deal of credit for the accurate manner in which the work was done as all acquitted themselves admirably.

I conclusion I wish to thank the officers and Companions of the district for the honor conferred upon me. All of which is respectfully and fraternally submitted.

CHAS. G. WENSLEY,

Grand Superintendent,

Prince Edward District No. 11.

Campbellford, 30th December, 1898.

ST. LAWRENCE DISTRICT No. 12.

To the Most Excellent the Grand Z., Principals and Officers of the Grand Chapter of Canada.

As Grand Superintendent of St. Lawrence District, I have the honor to submit my report of the condition of Capitular Masonry in District, No. 12, for the year 1898.

There are seven Royal Arch Chapters in this district, all of which have been doing good work, and are in a satisfactory condition.

The city of Kingston Chapter, Ancient Frontenac and Cataraqui, No. 1, has held meetings regularly, and with fair attendance. This is the only Chapter in the district which has retained its fee for membership at twenty-five dollars, and it has not suffered thereby This being the Chapter of which I am a member, I was present at every convocation, and not only saw the work performed, but at times had the pleasure of assisting therein. As will be seen from the schedule at close of my report, the membership of the Chapter and manner in which its dues are collected reflects credit upon its officers, and upon none more than the Scribe E. Comp. Fortescue, whose enthusiasm for Capitular Masonry is well known in the district. The work of this Chapter I have dealt with in my report of the Chapter of Instruction for the district, held at Prescott, on July 9th last.

Grenville Chapter, No 22, Prescott.—This Chapter has held during the year eight regular and one emergent meetings, which were well attended, the members showing much interest in the work. My official visit to this Chapter was one of the most pleasant duties of the year, taking the form of a Chapter of Instruction for the District, where the work was performed by Grenville Chapter, No. 22, exemplifying the M M. M. degree. The work was commenced at 4 o'clock p.m., and performed in a most satisfactory manner, the officers not only carrying out our ritual in word, but by emphasis showed the true spirit of the work; their movements on the floor were very pleasing and called forth much well deserved praise from the large numbers present, embracing many from our neighbouring Chapter in Ogdensburg, N. Y.

The M E. M. degree was exemplified by St Lawrence

Chapter, No. 100, of Brockville, who labored under some disadvantage by not having all their junior officers present; the three Principals having procured a couple of volunteers to complete their number, proceeded with the work and exemplified the degree in a manner which was highly satisfactory.

In the evening the officers of Grenville Chapter opened in the R. A. degree, and received officially the M. E. the Grand Z., Comp. M. Walsh, and the Grand Superintendent of the district, after which they handed over the Chapter to the officers of Ancient Frontenac and Cataraqui Chapter, No. 1, who exemplified the supreme degree of the H. R. A. From the manner in which the Grand Z. eulogized the work, and the flattering expressions from the R. E. Companions of Ogdensburg, I am satisfied that our Chapter fully sustained the reputation held continuously during the past century. I cannot allow this portion of my report to pass without alluding to the reception given by the Prescott Companions to the Grand Z. and visiting Companions, meeting them at the railway station and right royally entertaining them during their visit to the pretty and historic town.

Sussex Chapter, No. 59, Brockville.—This Chapter has held ten meetings during the year, and exalted eight to the degree of the H. R. A. I officially visited them on Oct. 28th, and saw that degree conferred upon two candidates; I cannot speak too highly of the manner in which this Chapter did their work, showing a keen interest in Capitular Masonry, and a desire to excel in all that pertains thereto. The books of this Chapter are admirably kept by their very efficient Scribe Comp. Wood. The pleasure of my visit was enhanced by the large attendance of Companions from St. Lawrence Chapter, No. 100, showing the good feeling that exists between these two Chapters, which has been since further augmented by both Chapters meeting in the same room, and working together in perfect harmony.

Maitland Chapter, No. 68, North Augusta.—This Chapter is difficult to get at, being situated so that a long drive from Brockville is necessary, for this reason I was unable to spare the time to visit it, but my predecessor, R. E Comp. Fitzsimmons, kindly went, and from him I learn that the Chapter has comfortable quarters, and money in its treasury, its officers are well skilled and can work all the degrees, what

they lack most is the material to work upon. I have failed to obtain a report from this Chapter for the year, although I have spared neither the mails nor the telegraph wires.

St. Lawrence Chapter, No. 100, Brockville.—Although comparatively a young Chapter, yet their members and the manner in which the work is performed attests to their zeal, and much may be expected from them in the future. They exemplified the M. E. M. work at Prescott, which was very creditable, meeting with satisfactory expressions from the M. E. the Grand Z., as well as from other eminent Companions in attendance.

St. John's Chapter, No. 112, Morrisburg. — I regret that I was not able to arrange a meeting with this Chapter. From correspondence with them and meeting with their First Principal, Ex. Comp. Kennedy, at the Chapter of Instruction at Prescott, I am able to say that they have been doing very good work, my return showing that the degree of the H. R A. was conferred upon six candidates during the year. I have taken up the matter of their liabilities and collection of dues, urging them to guard such more carefully.

Covenant Chapter, No. 113, Cornwall.—This Chapter has done more work during the year than any other Chapter in the district, having held 11 meetings and exalted 14 candidates, showing the wisdom of Grand Chapter in sanctioning the removal of this Chapter from Farrans Point to Cornwall. I think we can look forward with confidence to this Chapter making rapid progress.

I am pleased to be able to report that during the year peace and harmony has reigned in the district. Dispensations were granted to Covenant Chapter to ballot for three candidates not previously read in open Chapter, and to Sussex and Ancient Frontenac Chapters to elect their officers at emergent Instead of at regular meetings.

I enclose herewith a tabular statement of the standing of the various Chapters.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

Wm. Thomson,

Grand Supt. St. Lawrence District, No. 12.

SUMMARY OF WORK DONE IN ST. LAWRENCE DISTRICT, No. 12.

No.	Chapter.	Location.	Meetings.			Membership.				Degrees Conferred.				Initiations.	Suspensions.	Withdrawals.	Deaths.	Average Attendance.		Financial.				No in Arrears.	Insurance Carried.
			Regular.	Emergent.	Total.	Dec. 31st, 97.	Increase.	Decrease.	Total, Dec. 31, '97	M.M.M.	M.E.M.	R.A.	Total.					Members.	Visitors.	Assets.	Cash.	Dues.	Total.		
																				$ c.	$ c.	$ c.	$ c.		$ c.
1	Ancient Frontinac and Cataraqui .	Kingston.....	10	1	11	74	1	3	72	1	1	1	3	1	0	1	2	18	1	500 00	14 00	36 00	550 00	13	200 00
22	Grenville	Prescott	8	1	9	53	2	1	54	1	2	2	5	1	1	0	0	14	2	400 00	100 00	100 00	600 00	13	200 00
59	Sussex..	Brockville. . . .	7	3	10	65	7	1	71	6	6	8	20	6	0	1	0	12	3	250 00	110 00	147 00	507 00	53	None.
68	Maitland.....	North Augusta	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	.....	.....	.....	.....		.....
100	St. Lawrence.....	Brockville.....	9	2	11	43	6	3	46	6	6	6	18	6	0	2	1	11	3	150 00	103 00	190 00	443 00	18	None.
112	St. John's.....	Morrisburg....	5	1	6	32	4	...	36	4	6	6	14	4	0	0	0	10	0	250 00	.....	58 00	308 00	24	200 00
113	Covenant	Cornwall.....	11	0	11	40	18	4	54	16	14	14	44	16	0	4	0	15	2	350 00	50 00	59 00	459 00	7	150 00

OTTAWA DISTRICT No. 13.

To the Most Excellent the Grand Z., Officers and Companions of the Grand Chapter of Canada.

I have, through the unanimous consent of the several Chapters of this district, the honor of submitting a report of the condition of Capitular Masonry in the Thirteenth or Ottawa District.

During the year nothing of any great importance came before me. I enjoyed the pleasure of meeting with the Companions of the several Chapters within the district; with the exception of Pembroke No. 58. Early in the year I notified the Scribes of the different Chapters to send me the notices for all regular and emergent meetings, and received answer from No. 58, that they had been unable to secure a sufficient number to open their Chapter, and consequently had not held meetings for some time, but at the same time asking for an extension of that same leniency which they had received from my predecessor in office. At the end of my term I mailed the usual blank form for information, but as yet have received no reply, consequently have no further information to lay before you and can hold out but small hopes for its future prosperity.

Carleton No. 16, Ottawa.—Is well handled by an efficient set of officers and well supported with a long list of true and trusty Past Principals and subordinate officers, so the duties of Grand Superintendent falls light upon him when visiting that Chapter.

Granite No. 61, Almonte.—I visited at its regular meeting in November, accompanied by First Principal Cleary and Principal Sojourner Campbell, of Bonnechere Chapter, Renfrew. The R. A. degree was conferred very satisfactorily and considerable interest shown by all the officers throughout the whole of the evening's proceedings.

Bonnechere Chapter No. 114, Renfrew.—Is my own mother Chapter, and as I had an opportunity of being at all its regular and emergent meetings, enjoyed the pleasure of witnessing the several degrees conferred correctly, over and over again. It would appear perhaps too egotistical to say all about the Principals and officers of this Chapter that is justly due to them.

MAPLE No. 116, Carleton Place.—I visited on the night of the regular meeting in October, when a candidate was up for his M. E. M. degree. The chairs were not all filled with the elected and appointed officers, owing no doubt to some of them living at a distance and from other causes; however the officers in charge performed the degree work, as well as the opening and closing, very efficiently, and we can foresee nothing for this Chapter but prosperity.

With the exception of Pembroke Chapter No. 58, Mattawa, all are in a fairly prosperous condition and harmony prevailing throughout. The accompanying table is as far as returns have been received to date.

DAVID BARR,
Grand Superintendent,
Ottawa District, No. 13.

Ottawa District No. 13, Statistical Table.

No.	Chapters.	Place.	Meetings.			Average Attendance.	Visitors.	Annual Dues.	Membership.								Work Done.			No. Members 12 Months in Arrears.	Liabilities.	Assets.	Dues Outstanding.	Insurance.	Can Ex. Z. do Work?	Prospects.
			Regular.	Emergent.	Total.				No. Members last Returns.	Petitions Accepted.	Candidates Initiated.	Affiliations.	Restorations.	Withdrawals.	Suspensions.	Deaths.	Present Membership.	M. M. M.	M. E. M.	R. A. M.							
16	Carleton	Ottawa	9	..	9	19	1	$3.00	75	8	3	3	1	2	4	2	73	3	3	5	..	..	.....	.....	.....	Yes.	Good.
58	Pembroke ..	Mattawa.....	No		re	tu	rn	s.																		
61	Granite.....	Almonte.....	7	3	10	9	3	1.00	27	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	28	1	1	1	8	..	$150.00	$10.00	$150.00	Yes.	Fair.
114	Bonnechere .	Renfrew	12	7	19	13	1	2.60	29	13	12	..	..	..	..	..	41	12	12	12	6	..	.....	41.70	.....	Yes.	Good.
116	Maple	Carleton Place	5	1	6	15	1	3.00	36	1	1	..	..	1	..	1	35	1	2	..	27	..	230.00	121.75	100.00	Yes.	Fair.

ALGOMA DISTRICT, No. 14.

To the Most Excellent the Grand Z., Principals, Officers and Companions of the Grand Chapter of Canada.

I have the honor to present my report on the condition of Capitular Masonry in the Algoma District, which comprises the following Chapters : — Shumiah No. 82, Port Arthur ; Golden No. 90, Rat Portage ; Tuscan No. 95, Sudbury ; Algonquin No 102, Sault Ste. Marie. It will be noted that they are about 300 miles apart.

It was not convenient for me to visit each Chapter and find out the exact standing and progress of Capitular Masonry and it is almost impossible to obtain returns in time for the Grand Chapter.

I have been fortunate in meeting some Companions from each Chapter and I am sure the outlook is much brighter than ever before.

I officially visited Shumiah Chapter No. 82, Port Arthur. The attendance was very good and its members are increasing very fast, especially from the town of Fort William. The Excellent Z. being absent, R. E. Companion S. W Ray conferred the degrees, and I cannot speak too highly of the ability and excellency of our R. E. Companion.

I enquired at Rat Portage about the condition of Golden Chapter No. 90, but I was unable to get a convocation and I only had a short time to stay, but I feel assured it is for the want of some assistance and energy that this Chapter has become dormant. The Companions are men of excellent character and most courteous in manner and cordially invited me to come again.

I have had correspondence from Tuscan Chapter No. 95, Sudbury and from Algonquin Chapter No. 102, Sault Ste. Marie. I feel confident that these Chapters are in good working order and fully up to the mark in every way. I am personally acquainted with E. Companion Knight of Sault Ste. Marie and several of the Companions from Sudbury, and with the revival of business they will add many members to these Chapters.

I feel satisfied from what I have seen, that with the improvement of the times and the interest taken in the work, that this district will show a decided advance the coming year.

All of which is fraternally submitted,

R. E. Mitchell,
Grand Superintendent, Algoma District.

MANITOBA DISTRICT, No. 15.

To the Most Excellent the Grand Z., Principals, Officers and Companions of the Grand Chapter of Canada.

I have the honor to submit my report on Capitular Masonry in District No 15, which comprises the following Chapters, viz.: — Prince Rupert's No. 52, Winnipeg; Corinthian No. 101, Boissevain; Signet No. 105, Winnipeg, and Zeredatha N. 111, Morden.

During the year, peace and harmony have prevailed throughout this district, not having any questions submitted to me requiring a ruling or investigation.

PRINCE RUPERT'S No. 52. — This is my own Chapter which I attend regularly and have frequent opportunities of seeing the work, which is very well rendered. The officers have been faithful to their duties, but the average attendance is very small when you take into consideration the number of Companions in the Chapter—about 140.

I visited officially at an Emergent Convocation held in Nov. in conjunction with Signet Chapter, for the purpose of hearing a lecture on Royal Arch Masonry by R. E. Comp. Thomas Robinson. The interests of Royal Arch Masonry would be materially advanced if the Companions had the pleasure of listening to these lectures more frequently. Could not some of the Grand officers be induced to put in an appearance in this western district? I think it would have a good effect and tend to bring the subordinate Chapters and Grand Chapter more together. During my fifteen years of Royal Arch Masonry, I cannot recall at present a visit from a Grand Chapter officer, but I am open to correction. Prince Rupert's held eleven regular and three emergent meetings during the year. They called off for one month in midsummer.

The average attendance of members was 19, visitors 6. Annual dues $3 per year for city members and $1.50 for country members; number of members as per last return, 135; petitions accepted, 19; initiated, 12; affiliations, 3; restorations, 3; withdrawals, 5; suspensions, 3; deaths, 2; present membership, 141; degrees conferred, M. M., 12, M. E. M, 13, R. A., 12; number of members twelve months

in arrears, 83 ; amount of dues outstanding, $400. On my visit I spoke very strongly on the subject of dues, since which time the Companions have taken steps to collect them. Liabilities of Chapter, $180 ; assets, $1.290 ; cash or securities, $900 : property, $230 ; insurance, $500, held jointly by Prince Rupert's and Signet Chapters. Prospects of Chapter very good. Excellent Z. can work all three degrees.

CORINTHIAN No. 101, Boissevain.—I have been unable to visit this Chapter, although I would have liked very much to have done so, as they seem to have lost their zeal for Royal Arch Masonry and are sleeping. I have written twice for a report, but up to the present have had no response. From what I have heard, their prospects are not very bright.

SIGNET No 105.—This Chapter I visit almost as often as my own. They started out a few years ago with bright prospects and made good progress, but during the last year or two their zeal has somewhat abated and are falling behind. Amalgamation with Prince Rupert's was talked of, but some of the Companions were opposed to the change. They have elected a good staff of officers and are trying to retrieve lost ground. I had the honor of presiding at their election and also the pleasure of installing their officers, in conjunction with Prince Rupert's, at the regular meeting of Signet Chapter on January 3rd. They have held 10 meetings, regular, and 3 emergent ; average attendance of members, 15 ; visitors, 5 ; dues, $3 ; number of members per last return, 73 ; petitions accepted, 4 ; candidates initiated, 5 ; affiliations, 2 ; withdrawals, 2 ; deaths, 1 ; present membership, 77 ; degrees conferred, M M., 5, M. E. M., 5, R. A. 5 ; number of members twelve months in arrears, 22. Liabilities of Chapter, $650 ; assets, $890, securities, $350 ; outstanding dues, $270. Prospects of Chapter are not very bright. Excellent Z. can work degrees.

ZEREDATHA No. 111, Morden.—I was unable to visit this Chapter, but happened to be in Morden for a few hours on business, and in conversation with the Scribe E Comp. Meikle and other Companions, I have come to the conclusion that the prospects are not very bright. They have held 4 regular meetings only in the year ; average attendance 9, and sometimes it was very difficult to get those nine together ; number of members last return, 25 ; one candidate—Marked, received and exalted—making a total of 26 members. The

S. E reports no assets and no liabilities ; $200 insurance and prospects no good. Excellent Z. cannot work all the degrees.

I am not surprised that Morden and Boissevain cannot support Chapters, when Winnipeg—with five blue lodges to draw from— cannot support two. The same opposition spoken of by my predecessor in office, still continues in Winnipeg ; but Royal Arch Masons, with the most beautiful and impressive ceremony in Masonry, a Chapter room which for beauty and comfort is scarcely equalled in Canada, should have nothing to fear from the opposition mentioned.

I granted a dispensation to Prince Rupert's Chapter to install officers at regular meeting of Signet on January 3rd, and now beg that you will kindly confirm the same.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

J. J. Jackson,
Grand Superintendent, Manitoba District.

Winnipeg, January 10th, 1899.

BRITISH COLUMBIA DISTRICT, No. 16.

To the Most Excellent the Grand Z. Principals and Officers of the Grand Chapter of Canada.

I have the honor to submit my report on the condition of Capitular Masonry in the British Columbia District No. 16, which comprises the following Chapters, viz. :—Vancouver No. 98, Kootenay No. 120. and Rossland U. D.

During the year harmony has prevailed throughout the district, not having one question submitted to me requiring a ruling or investigation.

On November 9th I visited Vancouver Chapter No 98, when the R. A. degree was conferred on three candidates in an exemplary manner. I was much pleased to see the lively interest taken by the past First Principals. After the work of the Chapter was finished an adjournment was made to the refreshment room, where, after partaking of the good things provided, a very pleasant hour was spent in song and impromptu speech making. I bespeak a bright and prosperous future for this Chapter.

On November 26th, at my request, Ex. Companions Quinlan and Brett, of No. 120, Scotland, Victoria, B. C., who

were in the neighborhood, and Ex. Comp. E. E. Chipman, of Kootenay No. 120, proceeded to Rossland, and instituted and installed the officers of Rossland Chapter. The following extract from his report will give a good idea of the prospects of Capitular Masonry in that district:—"Ex. Comp. Chipman then conferred the Mark and the Most Ex. on six candidates, and the H. R. A. on three of these. Their prospects are good, twenty applications being received at that meeting. Comp. Rayner will make a capital First Principal, and the other officers are well up and very enthusiastic, so success is assured."

Kamloops has made enquiries re starting a Chapter there, but after some correspondence concluded that the time had not yet arrived to do so.

After carefully considering the advisability of endeavoring to win over the Scottish Chapters on the island, and consulting with several of the Companions on the mainland, I deemed it advisable not to re-open the matter so soon, but believe that when the time is propitious they will "come over and help us," and thereby help themselves.

As hinted in my immediate predecessor's report to you, Vancouver Chapter has moved into new and very handsome quarters, and are anxiously waiting a visit from a Grand Chapter officer, who will be well received and royally entertained while here.

I have to thank my predecessors for many kindnesses which shall not soon be forgotten.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

P. McNAUGHTON,

Grand Superintendent,

British Columbia District, No. 16.

ALBERTA DISTRICT No. 17.

To the Most Excellent the Grand Z., Officers and Companions of the Grand Chapter of Canada.

I beg to submit my annual report on the condition of Capitular Masonry in District No. 17.

As there are only three Chapters in this district, I have had the pleasure of visiting them all two or three times, and am glad to report that they are all doing well, and prospects are bright for for the future.

Alberta Chapter No. 106.—This Chapter, of which I am a member has had a successful year, and made an increase of seven in its membership. It has all the necessary paraphernalia for degree work, which with their lodge room is second to none in the west; a good staff of officers, able to do their work well. Financial condition is good, and no liabilities. Attendance is fair, considering that a number of the members live at a great distance. Paraphernalia fully insured. I must give the Scribe E. credit for the way he has kept his books, everything and all information written fully up to date.

North Star Chapter No. 118, Edmonton.—This is the most northerly Chapter on the continent, and consequently does not receive so many visitors, and gain in infformation as some of those more central I visited this Chapter and was present during the installation of their officers. I granted them a dispensation to wear their regalia in attending divine service in June last. I visited them again last September and inspected their books, found the necessary number not complete and not fully written up. I have since learned that this has been remedied. I have written their Scribe E. two or three times about their report, which has caused a delay in mine, but up to date I have not received it, but trust it will follow in two or three days. There is not as much interest taken in this Chapter by the officers as I would like to see, but hope the new year will show a marked improvement.

Wascana Chapter No. 121, Regina.—I had the pleasure of instituting this Chapter a year ago last August, and since then the Chapter has been doing fairly good work, although it had quite a few difficulties to contend with, which I think have been overcome, and I predict a marked improvement for the coming year They have wisely re-elected their First Principal and he is bound to do some good work. A good Mason, and the right man in the right place. He has a good set of officers to assist him. They have made an increase of eight, the largest in this district. I again visited this Chapter at their regular meeting this month, and, from the officers elected, predict a bright future.

Their books I found not written up as they should be, and no insurance carried. This they had promised to remedy, and I trust by this time it has been done.

All the Chapters show a larger amount of outstanding dues than I like to see, but no doubt the most will be paid in before their next regular meeting.

I enclose reports of Alberta No. 106, and Wascana No. 121. That of North Star will be forwarded as soon as I receive it.

All of which is fraternally submitted,

A. W. R. MARKLEY,

Grand Superintendent,

Alberta District No. 17.

Calgary, N. W. T., December 28th, 1898.

REPORT OF GRAND SCRIBE E.

M. E. GRAND Z AND COMPANIONS,—I respectfully beg to report that there are now 95 warranted Chapters on the roll and one under dispensation. Of these 84 had sent in returns and remittances up to the date of closing the books, 2 forwarded returns without the money and 10 had not been heard from, although since that date some of the tardy ones have come to hand. It will thus be gathered that with one or two exceptions the only Chapters which have not responded to the annual call are the few that have been somnolent for some time. The membership shows a substantial increase while the losses by resignations, suspensions and deaths are somewhat below the average.

For the prompt response to a request for an early transmission of the annual returns, I beg to express my thanks to the Scribes E. of the Chapters and to the Grand Superintendents of the several districts who most kindly seconded my efforts in this direction.

The accompanying statements represent the cash received at the office of the Grand Scribe E. and the payments made to, and acknowledged by, the Grand Treasurer.

CASH STATEMENT.—GRAND SCRIBE E.

Dr.

Bond, Toronto General Trusts		$1000 00
From Chapters.—Certificates	$ 601 00	
Registration Fees	623 00	
Annual Dues	1284 55	
Dispensations	40 00	
Warrants	30 00	
Constitutions	27 20	
Sundries—Ceremonies, etc.	11 90	
		2617 65
Interest.—Industrial School Bonds		680 00
Toronto General Trusts' Bonds		88 81
Sundries		119 85
Proceeds, Sale of Safe		95 00
Total		$4601 31

Cr.

July 1, 1898—Grand Treasurer		$ 48 81
Aug. " "		120 00
Apl. 4, " "		1000 00
June 23, " "		340 00
Aug. 31, " "		175 00
Sept. 14, " "		387 00
Oct. 1, " "		107 75
Nov. 4, " "		99 85
Dec. 5, " "		90 00
Dec. 12, " "		340 00
Jan. 2, 1899 "		40 00
" 4, " "		900 00
" 9, " "		400 00
" 18, " "		552 90
Total		$4601 31

ANNUAL STATEMENT, 31ST DECEMBER, 1898.

RECEIPTS FROM CHAPTERS.

1	An. Front. & Cat'qui.	$ 16	40	63	Havelock	$ 18	50
2	The Hiram	59	10	64	Willson	13	60
3	St. John's	50	30	65	St. Paul's	45	70
4	St. And. & St. John's.	44	00	66	Malloch	10	30
5	St. George	42	60	67	Enterprise	16	10
6	St. John's	55	80	68	Maitland	10	00
7	Moira	36	80	70	Grand River	16	40
8	King Solomon's	108	60	71	Prince of Wales	16	00
15	Wawanosh	32	40	72	Keystone	38	60
16	Carleton	46	50	76	Mount Nebo	8	80
18	Oxford	19	40	77	Occident	32	60
19	Mount Moriah	50	00	78	Minnewawa	10	60
22	Grenville	15	30	79	Orient	34	00
23	Ezra	87	50	80	Ark	23	20
24	Tecumseh	28	10	81	Aylmer	10	90
26	St. Mark's	20	40	82	Shuniah	33	20
27	Manitou	16	80	83	Ionic	19	60
28	Pentalpha	20	60	84	Lebanon	41	80
29	McCallum	15	60	85	Exeter	10	00
30	Huron	17	80	86	Macpherson	11	20
31	Prince Edward	28	00	88	Macnabb	21	20
32	Waterloo	11	60	91	Antiquity	82	10
34	Signet	32	30	95	Tuscan	20	40
36	Corinthian	29	60	96	Vancouver	74	20
37	Victoria	29	80	100	St. Lawrence	34	50
40	Guelph	42	40	101	Corinthian	22	75
41	Harris	25	60	102	Algonquin	14	20
44	Mount Sinai	12	10	103	St. John's	9	40
45	Excelsior	17	80	104	White Oak	20	10
46	St. James	7	20	105	Signet	26	40
47	Wellington	18	90	106	Alberta	28	00
48	St. John's	19	60	110	Warkworth	15	00
50	Saugeen	13	00	111	Zeredatha	7	20
52	Prince Rupert	89	70	113	Covenant	46	30
53	Bruce	30	00	114	Bonnechere	33	20
54	Palestine	82	20	115	Brant	8	90
55	Niagara	8	20	116	Maple	9	00
56	Georgian	14	00	117	Berlin	41	90
57	King Hiram	19	20	118	North Star	3	60
58	Pembroke	22	20	119	King Cyrus	12	00
59	Sussex	29	20	120	Kootenay	54	80
60	Doric	64	80	121	Wascana	73	00
61	Granite	15	00		U.D. Rossland,	66	06
62	York	26	00				
						$2617	65

Bond, Toronto General Trusts	$1000 00	
Interest "	88 81	
" Industrial Bonds	680 00	
Sale of Safe	95 00	
Sundries	119 85	
		1983 66
Total		$4601 31

NEW CHAPTERS.

Early in the year warrants authorized at the last Grand Convocation, were prepared and forwarded to the Chapters at Regina, N. W. T., and Kaslo, British Columbia. The latter province has again been heard from. In September last a number of Companions at Rossland made application for letters of dispensation and the outlook being promising, the M. E. the Grand Z. directed me to comply with their request. They now ask for a warrant of confirmation.

CHARTER MEMBERS.

The signatures of the following Companions were appended to the application for the dispensation for Rossland Chapter. Horace J. Raymer, No. 52, G.R , Canada ; E. S. Larsen, No. 3, G.R., Oregon ; Archibald Cameron, No. 259, G.R., Scotland ; Isaac N. Thomas, No. 181, G.R., New York ; Keith Lackey, No. 1, G.R , Washington ; A. S. Johnson, No. 2, G.R., Washington ; James Davidson, No. 201, G.R., Scotland ; Harry C Burton, No. 2, G.R., Washington ; G. A. Mitchell, No. 11, G.R., Washington ; W. Monroe Archibald, No. 4, G.R., Nova Scotia ; A. L. McDonald, No. 1, G.R., Montana ; W. J. Cain, No. 10, G. R. Colorado.

It was with regret that the announcement was received some weeks later that the two last named Companions had been accidentally killed.

GENERAL.

Shortly after the duties of the office were entrusted to me I was enabled to secure at a moderate rental and to furnish economically, most convenient office accommodation in the Temple Building with the exclusive use of a spacious vault adjoining, which I have had shelved and where everything of value, the property of the Grand Chapter, is not only protected from injury or loss by fire, but is absolutely secure from intrusion and possible interference.

Respectfully submitted,

GEO. J. BENNETT,
Grand Scribe E.

REPORT OF THE GRAND TREASURER, 1898.

HUGH MURRAY, GRAND TREASURER, IN ACCOUNT WITH GRAND CHAPTER.

1898.		DR.	
Jan'y 26,	To Balance, as per Statement, at this date		$1486 51
April 4,	Grand Scribe E. (Toronto General Trusts Co.'s Bond)		1000 00
June 23,	Grand Scribe E. (Interest, Toronto Industrial School Bonds)		340 00
July 16,	Grand Scribe E. (Interest, Toronto General Trusts Co.)		48 81
Aug. 20,	Grand Scribe E		120 00
Aug. 30,	" "		175 00
Sept. 13,	" "		387 00
Oct. 3,	" "		107 75
Nov. 30,	" "		99 85
Dec. 12,	" " (Interest, Toronto Industrial School Bonds)		340 00
1899.			
Jan'y 16,	Grand Scribe E		90 00
"	" "		400 00
"	" "		900 00
"	" " (Int., Toronto General Trusts' Bonds)		40 00
Jan'y 19,	Grand Scribe E		552 90
	Total		$6087 82

1898.		CR.	
Jan'y 17,	By Order	824, Comp. G. J. Bennett, Foreign Cor.	$ 100 00
19,	"	825, Grand Z., Expenses	54 65
27,	"	826, Rolph, Smith & Co., Certificates	185 80
27,	"	827, The Hunter Rose Co., Printing	78 00
27,	"	828, Grand S. E, Bal. Incidentals	7 76
27,	"	829, " Advance "	125 00
Feb'y 4,	"	830, Mrs. S. Blondheim	15 00
4,	"	831, Mrs. J. Monroe	5 00
4,	"	832, Children, J. G. Burns	15 00
7,	"	833, Mrs. T. D. Harington	20 00
7,	"	834, Comp. A. Couper	15 00
7,	"	836, Mrs. W. B Wallace	5 00
7,	"	837, Mrs. J. S. Baker	5 00
7.	"	838, Mr. P. Grant	10 00
7,	"	839, Mrs. C. Merriott	7 50
7,	"	840, Mrs. E. Hill	10 00

1898.

	7,	"	841, Mrs. J. Kennedy	10 00
	7,	"	842, Mother of D. McLeod	10 00
	7,	"	843, Comp. G. R. Barker	15 00
	7,	"	846, Mrs. J. Vaux	10 00
	7,	"	847, Comp. F. P. Gassion	15 00
	7,	"	848, Mrs. H. Lambkin	5 00
	7,	"	849, Daughter of W. Kerr	5 00
	10,	"	850, Mrs. C. A. Burden	10 00
	10,	"	851, McPherson & Drope, Printing F. C.	158 50
M'ch	24,	"	853, Grand Scribe E., Salary	175 00
	24,	"	854, Grand Treasurer, Salary	12 50
	24,	"	855, Dudley & Burns, Proceedings	100 00
	24,	"	856, Hospital for Sick Children	500 00
May	11,	"	857, Dudley & Burns, Printing	34 39
	14,	"	858, Grand Scribe E., Salary	175 00
June	7,	"	859, Grand Z., Expenses	28 13
	27,	"	860, D. Henderson, Engrossing Warrants.	9 00
July	14,	"	861, Grand Z., Expenses	40 51
	14,	"	862, Grand Treasurer, Salary	12 50
	14,	"	863, Copp, Clark & Co., Warrants	30 00
Aug.	3,	"	864, Mrs. S Blondheim	15 00
	3,	"	865, Mrs. J. Monroe	5 00
	3,	"	866, Children, J. G. Burns	10 00
	3,	"	867, Mrs. T. D Harington	20 00
	3,	"	868, Comp. A. Couper	15 00
	3,	"	869, Mrs. C. E Black	5 00
	3,	"	870, Mrs. W. B Wallace	5 00
	3,	"	871, Mrs. J. S. Baker	5 00
	3,	"	872, Mrs. P. Grant	10 00
	3,	"	873, Mrs. C. Merriott	7 50
	3,	"	874, Mrs. E. Hill	10 00
	3,	"	875, Mrs. J. Kennedy	10 00
	3,	"	876, Mother of D. McLeod	10 00
	3,	"	877, Comp. G. R Barker	15 00
	3,	"	878, Mrs. J. Vaux	10 00
	3,	"	879, Comp. F. P. Gassion	15 00
	3,	"	880, Mrs. H. Lambkin	5 00
	3,	"	881, Daughter of W. Kerr	5 00
	3,	"	882, Mrs. C. A. Burden.	10 00
	3,	"	883, Rolph, Smith & Co., Certs.	30 00
	3,	"	884, Alex. Dixon, Bonds	15 00
Sept.	6,	"	885, Grand Scribe E., Salary	175 00
	6,	"	886, Exps Grand Council, *re* G. S. E.	7 50
	6,	"	887, " " Audit	9 00
	23,	"	888, Comp D. Ross, Special Grant	40 00
Oct.	15,	"	889, Rolph, Smith & Co., Certs	60 00
	15,	"	890, M. Gibbs, Insurance Prem.	5 75
	20,	"	891, Hospital for Sick Children	500 00
	20,	"	892, The Hunter Rose Co., Printing	14 25
	31,	"	893, Grand H., Exps.. *re* G. S. E.	4 00
Dec'r	10,	"	894, Grand Z., Acct. Expenses	43 89

1898.			
Nov'r 30,	"	895, Grand Treasurer, Salary	12 50
Dec'r 15,	"	896, Grand Scribe E., Salary	175 00
15,	"	897, Grand Treasurer, Salary	12 50
28,	"	898, Dudley & Burns, Printing	25 25
1899.			
Jan'y 9,	"	899, The Hunter Rose Co., Printing	19 75
14,	"	900, Rolph, Smith & Co., Certs	60 00
		Total	$3530 88

STATEMENT OF ASSETS OF GRAND CHAPTER, 20TH JANUARY, 1899.

Bonds, Toronto General Trusts Company, @ 4%	$ 2000 00
Bonds, Toronto Industrial School, @ 4%	17000 00
Cash in Canadian Bank of Commerce	2556 94
Total	$21556 94

CANADIAN BANK OF COMMERCE.

HAMILTON, 20th January, 1899.

We hereby certify that the above-named bonds are in the custody of this Bank for safe keeping, on account of Hugh Murray, Grand Treasurer of the Grand Chapter, and that the balance at the credit of the said Hugh Murray, as Grand Treasurer of the Grand Chapter, on the books of the Bank, at the close of business at this date, is two thousand five hundred and fifty-six dollars ninety-four cents ($2556.94).

WM. ROBERTS, *Manager.*
E. P. GOWER, *Accountant.*

Bonds	$19000 00
Cash	2556 94
	$21556 94

Fraternally submitted,

HUGH MURRAY,
Grand Treasurer.

It was moved by R. Ex. Comp. W. G. Reid, seconded by M. Ex. Comp. J. J. Mason, and

Resolved, — That the Statements of the Grand Scribe E. and Grand Treasurer, for the year 1898, be received and referred to the Executive Committee, for audit and to report thereon at the present Convocation.

COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED.

Letters of regret at inability to be present at this Annual Convocation were read from M. E Comps Kivas Tully, Toronto; and J. E. Harding, Lindsay; R. E. Comps. J. S. Dewar, London; W. B. McArthur, Ottawa; R. E Mitchell, Port Arthur; and Thos. Macnabb, Chatham.

The M. Ex. the Grand Z. then read the following communication from R. E. Comp. G F. Shepley, Grand J.

TORONTO, 23rd January, 1899.

To the M. Ex. the Grand Z and the Grand Chapter of Canada.

As I am prevented by circumstances which seem to me to be imperative from offering myself as a candidate for an office in Grand Chapter during this year, I deem it proper that I should submit to my Companions a brief statement of the reasons which compel me to that course.

When I was honoured by Grand Chapter by election to the office of Grand Third Principal two years ago, it was my belief that I should have, within reasonable limits, the time which it seemed to me necessary to devote to the duties of that office. In this expectation, I have, however, been disappointed. It has not been possible for me, with the best will in the world, to do any of the things which, as Grand Third Principal, I should have wished to do.

I have always held very strong views of the duty which an officer who has accepted office in any Masonic body, owes to the body which has elected him. A careless or indifferent discharge of such duty is, in my opinion, a grave Masonic offence. I cannot consistently overlook my own shortcomings in this respect, nor can I further trespass upon the indulgence of my brethren.

I see no prospect in the future of my being able to give the proper time and attention to the duties of office.

I cannot avoid the conviction that my continuing to hold office under these circumstances is, in the first place, a distinct injury to Grand Chapter, in the second place a serious injustice to Companions who are ready to devote their talents and

energies to the work which I am neglecting, and in the third place, so far as I am personally concerned, a reproach which I am bound to terminate at any cost to myself.

I am sure that the Companions will believe that I have never been and am not now ungrateful for the honour conferred upon me, nor for the uniform kindness and consideration with which I have been treated by Grand Chapter as a body and by all its members as individuals, and I am also satisfied that it will be understood that my declining any further nomination is solely due to what I feel to be my duty to Grand Chapter, whose interests ought to be paramount to any personal or private ambition.

GEO. F. SHEPLEY.

REPORT ON FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

R. Ex. Comp. Geo. J. Bennett, Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence presented the report of that Committee, which on motion of R. Ex. Comp. W. G. Reid, seconded by M. Ex. Comp. J. J. Mason was received and ordered to be printed as an Appendix to the Proceedings

The Executive Committee presented the report on

AUDIT AND FINANCE.

The Committee on Audit and Finance beg to report, that they have examined the books, vouchers, etc., of the Grand Scribe E., and Grand Treasurer, to 31st December, 1868, and found them correct.

RECEIPTS.

Balance on hand 31st Dec., 1897			$1486 51
Received from Chapters—		Certificates	601 00
"	"	Registration Fees	623 00
"	"	Membership Dues	1284 55
"	"	Dispensations	40 00
"	"	Warrants	30 00
"	"	Constitutions	27 20
"	"	Sundries, Ceremonies, etc	11 90
Bond—Toronto General Trusts			1000 00
Interest Industrial School Bonds			680 00
" Toronto General Trusts Bonds			88 81
Proceeds, Sale of Safe			95 00
Sundries			119 85
			$6087 82

DISBURSEMENTS.

Grants—Hospital for Sick Children	$1000 00
" Benevolence	410 00
Foreign Correspondence	100 00
Printing—The Hunter Rose Co.	112 00
" McPherson & Drope	158 50
" Dudley & Burns	284 39
Certificates, Rolph, Smith & Co	335 80
Warrants, Copp, Clark & Co	30 00
Salary—Grand Scribe E	700 00
" Grand Treasurer	50 00
Expenses Grand Z	167 18
" Grand Council, Toronto	20 50
Bonds—Grand S. E. and Grand Treas	15 00
Insurance—Office Effects	5 75
Balance on Incidentals, G. S. E	7 76
Advance "	125 00
Engrossing Warrants	9 00
	$3530 88

ASSETS.

Bonds—Toronto General Trusts Co., 4%	$2000 00
" Toronto Industrial School, 4%	17000 00
Balance in Bank	2556 94
	$21556 94

LIABILITIES.

Foreign Correspondence	$ 100 00
Printing, The Hunter Rose Co	6 00
Incidentals, G. S. E., Balance	62 09
" " Advance	125 00
Rent of Office and Vault, 3 mos	37 50
Furnishing "	46 00
Regalia Box, Shelving, etc	15 22
Assistance, Removing, etc	10 00
Grants to Benevolence	440 00

Your Committee find that of the 96 Chapters enrolled under this Grand Chapter returns have been received from 84 with their remittances, and we find that since the closing of the books 5 other Chapters have sent in their returns.

Your Committee cannot but express satisfaction at the manner in which the work of Grand Chapter has been carried on, and the gratifying position, financially, which the report shows.

Your Committee would recommend that owing to the

satisfactory showing of Grand Chapter, the $500 voted for the Hospital for Sick Children to be paid on the 1st August, 1899, be paid now, and that an order be drawn upon the Treasurer for the payment of such grant when desired by the trustees of the Hospital.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

A. Shaw,
Chairman of Committee on Audit and Finance.

Stratford, 25 Jan., 1899.

Moved by R. Ex. Comp. W. G. Reid, seconded by R. Ex. Comp. A. Shaw, and

Resolved,—That the Report of the Executive Committee on Audit and Finance be received and adopted.

CONDITION OF CAPITULAR MASONRY.

To the Most Excellent Z. Principals and Officers of the Grand Chapter of Canada.

The duty of revising the reports from the Superintendents of the several districts under the jurisdiction of this Grand Chapter has been one of pleasure for the most part to your Committee as the progress made during the past year has been of a gratifying nature.

With but few exceptions the reports are full of valuable information as to the work done in and progress made by the several Chapters under their respective jurisdictions. Except in a few instances there has been an increased membership in the various Chapters and all the Superintendents speak hopefully of the future.

Your Committee notices with pleasure that in the report of the Superintendent of the Toronto District at a meeting of the First Principals of the Chapters held in the early part of his incumbency it was decided to advise those Chapters where the initiation fee was only $10 to raise the same to not less than $15, the result being that in the city of Toronto all the Chapters except St. Paul's, which had not reduced its fee, have raised the initiation fee, some making it

$15 and others $20, including an apron and sash. The effect of raising the fee has not resulted disastrously in any way, but on the contrary every Chapter except one in the district increased its membership very materially. Why should not this good example be followed with advantage generally throughout the jurisdiction ?

It is also gratifying to note that the question of outstanding dues has received considerable attention from the officers of many of the Chapters that had large sums collectable the result being that large amounts have been received and their financial position thereby much improved, but it is also to be conceded that too many of the Chapters have a much larger sum outstanding than there should be and the attention of the officers for the present year is called to the necessity of looking closely after the collecting of the same.

Your Committee also notices that there are quite a number of Chapters that are not carrying any insurance, and the importance and necessity of their so doing cannot be too strongly impressed upon the officers to attend to that important duty. The incoming Superintendents are requested to ascertain from the reports of their respective predecessors the Chapters not carrying insurance, and not rest till they see that the wishes of the Committee in this respect are carried out. There is surely no Chapter in the jurisdiction where the finances are such that they are unable to pay the necessary premium to protect them from loss by fire.

From the report of the Superintendent of St. Clair District it appears that "Capitular Masonry in that district has varied in prosperity this year to a more than usual extent. In some of the local centres the members are most enthusiastic, candidates plenty and the work scrupulously done; while in others indifference and laxity in every form prevail." All the Chapters except two were visited and with two exceptions all the Chapters seem to have made good progress. Wellington Chapter at Chatham seems to have justified the hope that was expressed last year that it would be heard from this year as it has done good work and its prospects are bright. Prince of Wales Chapter at Amherstburg is still waiting to be heard from and as this was one of the Chapters not visited, it is recommended to the attention of the incoming Superintendent to look after and see what it can do during the coming

year. The report also deals fully with the method adopted in choosing the officers to conduct the Chapter of Instruction. The idea was a good one and seems to have proved a success in this instance, but whether other Superintendents could be so successful seems to this Committee to be doubtful. It is suggested, however, that it should receive a careful consideration by those intending to hold Chapters of Instruction during the coming year.

The report of the Superintendent of the London District is very full and explicit as to the work witnessed by him. He was able to visit all the Chapters and reports progress and good work done in them all. He held a very successful Chapter of Instruction at St. Thomas, at which the M. Ex. the Grand Z. was present.

The report from the Superintendent of the Wilson District is concise, and gives particulars of the work done in all the Chapters in the district. He states "that every Chapter is in good working order," the total increase for the year being 32.

The Superintendent of Wellington District says, "on the whole Capitular Masonry in this district is improving." All the Chapters, with one exception, have made some progress. If Seymour Chapter at Shelburne does not become re-organized and do some work the coming year it is recommended that the surrender of the charter be asked for.

The report from the Hamilton District is again this year without statistics, so that your Committee cannot judge of what progress has been made. St. Clair Chapter, Milton, is still weak, it having done no work during the past year. The Superintendent cannot be said to have given very much time or attention to visiting the Chapters, if we are to judge from his report. He makes no report upon the Chapters in Hamilton, except as to a visit he paid Hiram Chapter, No. 2, when he visited it for the purpose of healing some Hamilton brethren belonging to the so-called Grand Chapter of Ontario. He failed to accomplish his purpose, owing to objections raised by the Companions of Hiram Chapter. He, however, healed six of these brethren in White Oak Chapter, Oakville, under a dispensation from the M. E. the Grand Z.

The Superintendent of Huron District reports an increase of only two in the whole district during the past year, although the prospects for an increase in 1899 seem to be good. Your Committee agrees with the Superintendent that Exeter Chap-

ter, No. 85. is, no doubt, dead, and only awaits a burial, and would recommend that the Grand Council should see that its burial is properly attended to.

The report of the Superintendent of the Niagara District shows that that officer has had much to contend with, owing to the unsatisfactory state of affairs when he took office. With two exceptions there appears to have been some progress made although it was slight. All the Chapters with the exception of those at Grimsby and Welland were visited. It is a pleasure to be able to state that the former is showing some signs of improvement. The Chapter at Welland has about recovered itself since being burned out. This is another case where, if it had been carrying some insurance, they might have been in a good position.

The report from Toronto District is an excellent one, shewing good work done by the Superintendent. He says "every Chapter except one has increased in number this year, and the prospects for all are very good." His advice that those Chapters which have not their money properly banked, should do so in a satisfactory manner, should be acted upon at once. It is very gratifying to know that the Chapters at Newmarket and Eglinton can be removed from the category of weak Chapters, they both having done good work the past year. Your Committee hopes the action of the Grand Z. in giving York Chapter at Eglinton concurrent jurisdiction with the Toronto Chapters will be sustained and approved of as without such concurrent jurisdiction there was little hope of its being able to more than drag out an existence, owing to the jurisdiction being so limited.

The report of the Superintendent of the Georgian District is very short and has no returns from any of the Chapters. He visited only two Chapters, and found them in good condition. Illness and other causes prevented his visiting the others, he would have done so if he could.

The report from the Superintendent of Ontario District is an encouraging one. He visited all the Chapters except that at Warkworth, and that was through no fault of his, but from lack of interest in the Chapter. This Chapter does not seem to improve, and some active measures must be adopted to have the Companions in that neighborhood take more interest in Capitular Masonry, and put more life into the Chapter or the charter will be recommended for cancellation.

Keystone Chapter at Whitby seems to have recovered itself, which is a cause for congratulation. The visits of the M. E. the Grand Z. to Lindsay, Peterboro', Cobourg and Oshawa, and the addresses delivered were highly appreciated, and will prove most stimulating.

The report of the Superintendent of Prince Edward District is sadly lacking in information from which to judge as to the progress made and prospects for the future. The M. E. the Grand Z. paid visits to Moira Chapter, Belleville and Keystone, No. 72, Stirling.

From St. Lawrence comes a capital report that the seven Chapters in that district have all been doing good work, and are in a satisfactory condition. All the Chapters but two were visited by the Superintendent, and as to one, viz., Maitland, No. 68, at North Augusta, it was visited by R. E. Comp. Fitzsimmons as deputy for the Superintendent, who reports favorably upon the Chapter. The work which has been done in Covenant Chapter, No. 113, Cornwall, amply justifies the action in removing it from Farran's Point. A pleasant feature of the Chapter of Instruction at which the M. E. the Grand Z. was present, was a visit paid by the Companions from Ogdensburg, N. Y., who were well pleased with the work and were right royally entertained.

From Ottawa District the information is somewhat meagre, but the Superintendent visited all the Chapters except one, and speaks hopefully of the future of those he visited. As to Pembroke Chapter, No. 58, located at Mattawa, it seems to be in the same dormant state it was last year, and your Committee would recommend that it be asked to surrender its charter, as it seems to have no prospects to warrant its continuance.

From Algoma comes very little information, as the Superintendent appears to have visited only one Chapter, but from information he has obtained from Companions whom he has seen and from correspondence, he believes that the prospects for 1899 are brighter than they have been for some time past. It is, no doubt, a difficult matter to visit all the Chapters in this district, owing to the large extent of territory which it covers, so that some allowance must be made on that account.

We gather from the report of the Superintendent of Manitoba District that the prospects are far from encouraging. The two Chapters in Boissevain and Morden have not made

any advance during the past year and the prospects are not bright. The Chapters in Winnipeg, although progressing yet it is at a slow rate and the attendance for the reasons given last year still remains small. It is to be hoped that in the near future one or more of the Grand officers can spare the time to visit the Chapters in Winnipeg. We quite appreciate the difficulties in the past owing to the time necessarily consumed in getting there and returning and only few have the time to spare from their business.

The report from the Superintendent of British Columbia, although short and concise is encouraging, the Chapters are progressing. The thanks of Grand Chapter are due to Ex. Companions Quinlan and R. E. Brett of No. 120 Scotland, Victoria, B. C., for their assisting Ex. Comp. E. E. Chipman of Kootenay Chapter, in instituting and installing the officers of Rossland Chapter. As it is the youngest Chapter in our western country we give the following extract from their report :— "Ex. Comp. Chipman then conferred the Mark and Most Ex. M. on six candidates and the H. R. A. on three of these, their prospects are good, twenty applications being received at that meeting. Comp. Raymer will make a capital First Principal and the other officers are well up and very enthusiastic, so success is assured.' A visit from a Grand Chapter officer is anxiously awaited in Vancouver.

From Alberta District comes a very encouraging report. The Superintendent deserves great credit for having visited all the Chapters at least twice during the year and considering the great distances he had to travel it could have been no easy task. He reports all the Chapters doing well and prospects are bright for the future.

The result to be gleaned from the foregoing reports is one of encouragement for the future and your Committee congratulates Grand Chapter on the prosperous year just past.

Your Committee would again congratulate the M. E. the Grand Z. for the zeal he has displayed in the numerous visits he has made during the past year, particularly to the eastern part of the jurisdiction, as well as to his devotion to the performance of every duty laid upon him by Grand Chapter, and that he may long be spared to give to Grand Chapter the benefit of his experience and assist by his advice and counsel, is the earnest wish of your Committee.

It is hardly to be expected that a whole year could pass

and no break occur in our ranks as the grim reaper death passes by, but we are pleased to note that but few have fallen. Among those we mourn may be mentioned R. E. Comp. Francis Richardson one of the pioneers of R. A. Masonry in this province and R. E. Comp. John W. Murton, who was an earnest Masonic student and who attained to some of the highest positions in the Craft. He was beloved by all who knew him for his many excellent qualities of heart and head. His loss will be severely felt.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

WILLIAM ROAF,
Chairman.

It was moved by R. Ex. Comp. W. G. Reid, seconded by R. Ex. Comp. W. Roaf, and

Resolved,—That the report of the Executive Committee on the Condition of Capitular Masonry be received and adopted.

WARRANTS.

To the Most Excellent the Grand Z., Officers and Members of the Grand Chapter of Canada :

Your Committee on Warrants beg to report as follows :

Application has been received from Rossland, R. A. Chapter, B.C Since organization the 19th day of November they have held regular meetings. Minute book in good order. We recommend that a warrant be granted.

We have also received an application from Willson Chapter, No. 64, Welland, for a duplicate charter, they having lost theirs by fire. We would recommend that their request be granted without paying the usual fee. We further recommend that in future Grand Superintendsimpress on all Chap ters the necessity of being fully insured

All of which is respectfully submitted.

WM. BIRRELL, *Chairman.*

It was moved by R. E. Comp. W. G. Reid, seconded by R. E. Comp. W. Birrell, and

Resolved,—That the report of the Executive Committee on Warrants be reeeived and adopted.

BENEVOLENCE.

To the M. E. the Grand Z., Principals and Officers of the Grand Chapter of R. A. Masons of Canada.

The Executive Committee of Grand Chapter on Grants for Benevolent Purposes beg leave to report.

Your Committee have examined the applications sent in by subordinate Chapters and would recommend that the following grants be made :—

GRANTS—BENEVOLENCE.

Name of Grantee	Amt.	No.	Through whom Payable.
Widow of S. H. Blondheim	$30	1	1st Prin. An. Front. & Cataraqui, No. 1.
" John Munroe..	10	2	" " " "
" Philip J. Thomas.....	20	3	" The Hiram, No. 2.
" Chas. A. Burdon.....	20	4	" " "
" John Kennedy	20	5	" St. John's, No. 6.
" Edw. Hill.....	20	6	" " "
" T. D. Harington	40	7	" King Solomon's, No. 8.
Daughter of Wm. Kerr.....	10	8	" Carleton, No. 16.
Widow of John Vaux.....	20	9	" Tecumseh, No. 24.
Comp. A. Couper.....	40	10	" McCallum, No. 29.
Widow of C. E. Black.....	10	11	" " "
Mother of D. McLeod	20	12	" Huron, No. 30.
Widow of W. B. Wallace.....	10	13	" Victoria, No. 37,
" J. S. Baker	10	14	" " "
" W. Merriott	15	15	" Palestine, No. 54.
" Peter Grant.....	20	16	" " "
Comp. C. R. Barker.....	30	17	" Havelock, No. 63.
" C. W. Brown	50	18	" St. Paul's, No. 65.
" F. P. Gassion..... ..	50	19	" Occident, No. 77.

Your Committee again call the attention of Grand Chapter to the fact that the amounts contributed by private Chapters to beneficiaries is not at all in proportion to the amounts asked for and granted by Grand Chapter. In some cases no aid whatever is given by private Chapters, and your Committee feel that in the future, where such aid is not given, no claims to Grand Chapter should be entertained.

Your Committee recommend that a tabulated statement be prepared, giving in detail the amounts granted for benevolence, with the amounts paid to beneficiaries by private Chapters, and also a return of the fees paid by private Chapters to Grand Chapter.

Your Committee think that in the distribution of relief that the report of the inspector of Grand Lodge should be taken into consideration, as a guide to the granting or non-granting of relief.

Your Committee recommend that all applications for benevolence be sent in to the Grand Scribe E., not later than the 30th November in each year.

All of which is fraternally submitted,

J. Ross Robertson,
Chairman.

It was moved by R. E Comp. W. G. Reid, seconded by M. Ex. Comp. J. Ross Robertson, and

Resolved,—That the report of the Executive Committee on Benevolence be received and adopted.

GRAND Z's ADDRESS.

To the M. E. the Grand Z., Officers and Companions of the Grand Chapter of Canada :

The Executive Committee beg to present the following report on the address of the M. E. the Grand Z.

The hope expressed by the Committee in their last report that the Grand Z. would be able during 1898 to visit some of the Chapters in the eastern portion of Ontario, has been fully realized, the result being quite as satisfactory as that obtained by his visits to the western Chapters of that province during the year 1897. The Chapters at Niagara Falls South, Niagara, Toronto, Lindsay, Peterboro', Oshawa, Cobourg, Stirling, Trenton and Prescott, gained material benefit from his presence and advice and his encouraging words helped very much to stimulate even the weakest of them in their efforts towards greater progress. It is gratifying to note also that the Grand Z. favored Chapters of Instruction at St. Thomas, Toronto and Prescott, with his presence, that generally speaking the work of the various degrees was correctly and impressively exemplified and that greater interest in Capitular Masonry was manifested in the localities mentioned.

The Committee concur with pleasure in the nominations

made by the Grand Z. to fill vacancies in the list of Grand Representatives, and in the appointments made by the Grand Chapters of Missouri, District of Columbia, Victoria, Tennessee and West Virginia, of certain Companions as their representatives respectively near our Grand Chapter.

The Committee approves the action of the Grand Z. in permitting York Chapter at Eglinton to have concurrent jurisdiction with the Chapters in Toronto until the Annual Convocation, and trust that under the special circumstances of the case Grand Chapter will make the permission permanent The Committee learn with satisfaction that the resolution passed at the last Annual Convocation, with respect to certain members of the socalled Grand Chapter of Ontario, has been to a considerable extent carried out, and that at a friendly and fraternal conference between members of the committee named in the resolution and representatives of Tecumseh Chapter, Stratford, a mode of procedure was practically settled by which the spirit if not the exact letter of the resolution will be still further complied with. The remarks of the Grand Z. with respect to the effect of the reduction in the minimum fee for exaltation are well worthy the serious consideration of Grand Chapter and the Committee think that a notice of motion with regard to the matter will now be given so that it may be freely and fully discussed next year.

The Committee heartily join with the Grand Z. in congratulating Grand Chapter on the substantial progress made in the Royal Craft during the past year, both as evinced by the reports of the Grand Superintendents of Districts and by the increased remittances from the various Chapters. The Committee are pleased to learn that the change in the office of Grand Scribe E., a change which the Grand Z. properly describes as having taken place under trying circumstances, has resulted so satisfactorily, and that the duties of this important office have been discharged by the acting Grand Scribe E., to the Grand Z's entire satisfaction.

The Committee notice that the Grand Z. alludes to the surrender of his sceptre of office, in his usual modest and kindly manner, and feel that they but feebly express the sentiments of the members of the Royal Craft throughout the jurisdiction, when they say that the course of his official career has been strongly marked by the constant and successful efforts he has put forth in furtherance of the welfare and progress of Cap-

itular Masonry, and by the friendships formed through the unfailing courtesy and consideration shown by him to all with whom he has come in contact. May he long be spared to be of service to the Craft and the land in whose praises he enlists the poets aid as he closes his address.

Fraternally submitted,

J. J. MASON, *Chairman.*

It was moved by R. E. Comp. W. G. Reid, seconded by M. E. Comp. J. J. Mason and

Resolved—That the report of the Executive Committee on the address of the M. E. the Grand Z. be received and adopted.

TIME OF MEETING.

In accordance with notice given at the last Annual Convocation by R. E. Comp. J. S. Dewar, and in the absence of that Companion, it was moved by M. E. Comp. J. Ross Robertson, seconded by R. E. Comp. W. G. Reid, and

Resolved, That Sec. 6 of Art. 1, page 9, of the Constitution, be amended by eliminating the words, "at two o'clock in the afternoon," in the third line, and adding to the same sentence, after the word "Convocation," in the fifth line, the following: "and at such hour as the members of the Grand Council may from time to time determine."

THE GRAND LECTURER.

R. E Comp. J. B. Nixon, in accordance with a notice given by him, moved, seconded by R. E Comp. D. H. Martyn:

That Sec. 28, Art. 3, page 23, of the Constitution, be amended by striking out all after the word "Chapters" in the fifth line, and inserting the following: "The amount of renumeration for so doing to be fixed by Grand Chapter. It shall be his duty to visit the Chapters, as instructed by the Grand First Principal, exemplifying the work authorized by this Grand Chapter, deliver lectures in the interest of Capitular Masonry, and make a report of his work to the Grand First Principal or to Grand Chapter."

The resolution being put to Grand Chapter was declared *lost.*

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

The election of officers was then proceeded with. The M. E. the Grand Z. appointed R. E. Comps. W. T. Toner, A. R. Hargraft and W. J. Butler, as scrutineers of the ballot.

The following were announced as the Grand Officers for the ensuing year:

GRAND COUNCIL.

M. E. Comp. W. G. Reid, Hamilton.....Grand Z.
R. E. " W. Gibson, Beamsville.....Grand H.
R. E. " A. Shaw, Kingston.....Grand J.

Grand Chapter was then called off for the space of twenty minutes, to enable the representatives of the several Districts to select their respective Superintendents.

Grand Chapter resumed labor when the following nominations were announced by the Grand Scribe E. and confirmed by the M. E. the Grand Z.

GRAND SUPERINTENDENTS.

R. E. Comp.	Thos. Peters, Walkerville,	St. Clair	Dist.	No.	1
" "	Henry Roe, St. Thomas,	London	"	"	2
" "	Wm. Kennedy, Vittoria,	Wilson	"	"	3
" "	Geo. Leighton, Harriston,	Wellington	"	"	4
" "	Fred. Walter, Hamilton,	Hamilton	"	"	5
" "	Wm. Elliott, Mitchell,	Huron	"	"	6
" "	Chas. Burch, St. Catherines,	Niagara	"	"	7
" "	A. Douglas Ponton, Toronto,	Toronto	"	"	8
" "	J. Whitten, Bracebridge,	Georgian	"	"	9
" "	J. R. Fitzgerald, Colborne,	Ontario	"	"	10
" "	G. Nelson Rose, Waupoos,	Pr. Edward	"	"	11
" "	Wm. Thomson, Kingston,	St. Lawrence	"	"	12
" "	J. M. Munro, Almonte,	Ottawa	"	"	13
" "	Alexander Allen, Port Arthur,	Algoma	"	"	14
" "	Chas. H. Enderton, Winnipeg,	Manitoba	"	"	15
" "	Thos. Clouston, Vancouver,	B. Columbia	"	"	16
" "	A. W. R. Markley, Calgary,	Alberta,	"	"	17

The election of Grand Officers was then resumed:

*R. E. Comp Geo. J. Bennett, Toronto, ...Grand Scribe E.
" " Chris McLellan, Stratford,..... " " N.
" " L. K. Murton, Oshawa, ... " Prin. Sojourner
" " J. C. Morgan, Barrie,..... " Registrar
" John Robertson, London,..... " Janitor

The following Companions were declared elected members of the Executive Committee of Grand Chapter:

*For the office of Grand Scribe E. two Companions were nominated. An alleged irregularity in the balloting elicited a protest, which, after some discussion, was referred by the M E. the Grand Z. to a Committee to enquire into and report to his successor, the appointment of R. E. Comp. Bennett being continued in the interval.

R. E. Comp. A. R. Hargraft.....Cobourg
" " D. F. MacWatt.....Barrie
" " D. H. Martyn.....Kincardine
" " W. T. Toner.....Collingwood
" " W. Roaf.....Toronto

BENEVOLENCE COMMITTEE.

The following Companions comprise the Committee on Benevolence, and are members of the Executive Committee of Grand Chapter for their respective terms :

M. E. Comp. J. E. Harding, Lindsay, retires in 1900
R. " " J. S. Dewar, London, " 1901
M. " " R. B. Hungerford, London, " 1902

NEXT PLACE OF MEETING.

The cities of Toronto, Hamilton and London were nominated for the next Annual Convocation. The vote resulted in the selection of London.

MINIMUM FEE FOR DEGREES.

R. E. Comp. N. T. Lyon, Toronto, gave notice that at the next Annual Convocation he would move that Sec. 2, Article 4, of the Constitution be amended by striking out the word "ten" in the fourth line, and substituting therefor the word "twenty."

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS.

M. E. Comp. M. Walsh, assisted by M. E. Comp. J. J. Mason, then proceeded with the installation and investiture of the newly elected officers who were proclaimed and saluted with the usual honors.

APPOINTED OFFICERS.

The following Companions were subsequently appointed by the M. E. the Grand Z. to office in Grand Chapter :

V. E. Comp.	W. Caw, M.D., Parkhill,	Grand	1st Asst. Sojourner
" "	Geo. B. Quamby, Windsor,	"	2nd " "
R. E. "	J. B. Nixon, Toronto,	"	Lecturer
V. E. "	Jonathan Green, Brockville,	"	Sword Bearer
" "	E. Nelson Brown, Calgary,	"	Master of 1st Veil
" "	R. H. Arthur, M.D., Sudbury,	"	Master of 2nd Veil
" "	R. E. Cheswright, Seaforth,	"	Master of 3rd Veil
" "	David J. Walker, Trenton	"	Master of 4th Veil
" "	Frank Reid, Simcoe,	"	Standard Bearer
" "	V. G. Cornwall, Colborne,	"	Direct'r of Ceremonies
" "	W. E. Brown, Hamilton,	"	Organist
" "	T. J. Stevenson, Merritton,	"	Pursuivant
" "	J. C. Cooke, Kincardine,	"	Steward
" "	W. E. Hazley, Winnipeg,	"	Steward
" "	W. H. Best, Toronto,	"	Steward
" "	Robert Pollock, Almonte,	"	Steward

The M. E. the Grand Z. further appointed the undermentioned Companions to the Executive Committee :

R. E. Comp.	W. Birrell	Hamilton
" "	W. B. McArthur	Ottawa
" "	Robt. Scott	Petrolea
" "	John Leslie	Winnipeg
" "	R. G. W. Conolly	Dunnville

TESTIMONIAL TO M. E. COMP. M. WALSH, P. G. Z.

It was moved by M. E. Comp. R. B. Hungerford, seconded by M. E. Comp. J. J. Mason, and

Resolved,—That a committee be appointed to procure and present a suitable testimonial to M. E. Comp. M. Walsh, P. G. Z., in token of the appreciation of the zealous work done by him during the last two years.

The M. E. the Grand Z. appointed M. E. Comps. J. J. Mason and R. B. Hungerford and R. E. Comp. W. Gibson.

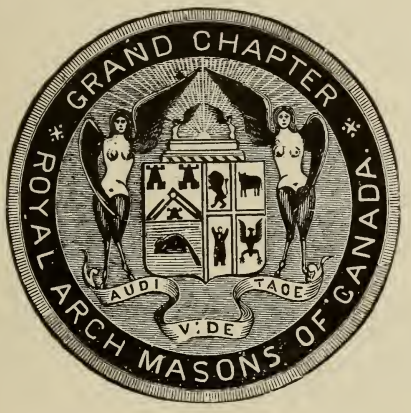
VOTE OF THANKS.

It was moved by R. E. Comp. W. Gibson, seconded by R. E. Comp. A. Shaw, and

Resolved,—That the cordial thanks of this Grand Chapter are due and are hereby tendered to the Companions of Tecumseh Chapter, Stratford, for their kindly attention and fraternal reception of the

officers and members of Grand Chapter, as well as for the arrangements made for the Forty-First Annual Convocation of this Grand Body.

The labors of Grand Chapter being ended, it was closed in **Ample Form** at 6 p.m.



Geo. J. Bennett

Grand Scribe E.

STRATFORD, 25th January, A.I., 2429, A.D., 1899.

RETURNS OF SUBORDINATE CHAPTERS, 31ST DECEMBER, 1898.

No.	Name of Chapter.	Where Held.	Regular Meeting.	First Principal Z.	Scribe E.	Admissions.	Joinings.	Restorations.	Withdrawals.	Suspensions.	Deaths.	Members.	Increase.	Decrease.
1	An. Front. and Cat'i.	Kingston	Third Wednesday	J. S. Skinner	J. Fortescue	1	....	....	1	....	2	72	....	2
2	The Hiram	Hamilton	Fourth Friday	Fred Miller	W. E. Brown	12	2	1	5	13	2	151	....	5
3	St. John's	London	Fourth Wednesday	J. A. Gauld.	John Siddons	10	1	....	2	....	4	137	5	....
4	St. And. and S. John	Toronto	Third Friday	R. H. Clewlo	W. H. Blight	13	1	....	3	....	3	120	8	....
5	St. George's	London	Fourth Friday	Wm. Spittal	Chas. C. Reed	9	....	....	....	....	1	123	8	....
6	St John's	Hamilton	Second Thursday	W. M. Logan	W. J. McAllister	6	....	....	2	3	4	206	....	3
7	Moira	Belleville	First Friday	Geo. Dulmage	Isaac O. Frost.	7	....	....	4	6	1	115	....	4
8	King Solomon's	Toronto	First Friday	W. A. Lyon.	John Roberts	35	....	....	7	....	2	193	26	....
15	Wawanosh	Sarnia	Second Friday	J. B. Simpson.	W. A. Wiggins.	6	....	....	1	..	....	102	5	....
16	Carleton	Ottawa	Third Friday	W. Rea.	W. G. S. Reynolds	3	3	2	2	4	2	75	....	....
18	Oxford	Woodstock	Third Monday	R. W. Moore.	H. A. Biggins.	3	....	....	....	....	....	54	3	....
19	Mount Moriah	St. Catharines	Friday on or b. f. m.	Jas. A. Grobb.	Wm. H. Read	4	....	....	2	....	....	91	2	....
20	Mount Horeb	Brantford	First Friday	W. L. Hughes.	W. H. Inglis	9	....	1	3	....	....	67	7	....
22	Grenville	Prescott	Second Tuesday	F P. Drummond.	John A. Graham	1	....	1	....	1	....	54	1	....
23	Ezra	Simcoe	Thursday after f m.	Frank Reid	W. P. Kelly	16	....	....	....	....	1	90	15	....
24	Tecumseh	Stratford	First Tuesday	J. R. Stuart.	E. E. C. Kilmer.	1	1	....	1	....	2	109	....	1
26	St. Mark's	Trenton	Tuesd'y on or af. f m.	Willet O. Lott.	J. D. Rowe	6	....	1	1	....	....	37	6	....
27	Manitou	Collingwood	Friday on or b. f. m.	G. W. Bruce	Frank B. Gregory	4	....	....	....	....	....	56	4	....
28	Pentalpha	Oshawa	Second Friday	E. O. Felt.	L. K. Murton	6	....	....	....	....	1	44	5	....
29	McCallum	Dunnville	Friday after f. m.	J. C. Eccles	J. B. Sheehan	....	....	....	....	....	....	39	....	....
30	Huron	Goderich	Third Tuesday	A. Lawson	W. A. Rhynas	4	....	1	....	6	....	49	....	1
31	Prince Edward	Picton	Mond'y on or af. f.m.	J. H. Coldin	E. W. Case	4	....	....	....	....	1	100	3	....
32	Waterloo	Galt	Second Monday	J. W. Porteous	C. Blake	....	....	....	....	....	1	49	....	1
34	Signet	Barrie	Second Tuesday	W. J. Sutherland	W. J. Hallatt	8	3	....	1	3	....	74	7	....
35	Keystone	Whitby	Third Friday	Joseph White	Theo. King	8	....	....	....	....	....	49	8	....
36	Corinthian	Peterboro'	Third Tuesday	D. N. Carmichael	John Beatty	6	....	....	4	....	....	68	2	....
37	Victoria	Port Hope	Second Friday	E. J. W. Burton	W. G. Coulter	8	....	1	1	....	....	57	8	....
38	Seymour	Shelburne	Second Friday	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	28	....	....
40	Guelph	Guelph	Second Friday	R Mahoney, Jr.	R. Webb	....	....	....	....	....	....	72	....	....
41	Harris	Ingersoll	Second Friday	James P. Boles.	Jas. F. Williams	6	....	....	....	....	....	48	6	....
44	Mount Sinai	Napanee	Wednesd'y after f. m.	Fred F Miller	R. L. Henry	2	1	....	1	....	1	59	1	....
45	Excelsior	Colborne	First Tuesday	V. G. Cornwall	Geo. Gosler	3	....	....	1	1	....	59	1	....
46	St. James	St. Marys	Third Friday	H. Fred Sharo	Fred S. Sharp.	1	....	....	....	....	1	26	....	....
47	Wellington	Chatham	Second Thursday	Thos. Scullard	Jas. Birch	5	1	....	....	....	....	42	6	....
48	St. John's	Cobourg	Friday on or b. f. m.	A. E. Hoskins.	Robt. Buck	5	....	....	....	....	1	43	4	....
50	Saugeen	Mitchell	Thursd'y on or b.f.m.	F. H. Thompson	G. L. Money	3	....	....	....	....	....	26	3	....

52	Prince Rupert	Winnipeg	First Thursday	James Suttee	J. A. Oliver	11	3	2	5	3	2	141	6	....
53	Bruce	Petrolea	First Thursday	M. Smith	S. McCann	6	....	....	....	....	....	90	6	....
54	Palestine	St. Thomas	Second Thursday	John S. Fraser	W. E. Idsardi	29	..	....	1	2	3	114	23	....
55	Niagara	Niagara	Thursday after f. m.	John C. Garrett	Fred Masters	2	....	....	....	....	....	21	2	....
56	Georgian	Owen Sound	Third Tuesday	R. McDowell	John Rutherford	2	....	....	1	....	2	53	....	1
57	King Hiram	Port Colborne	First Thursday	J. C. Jordan	Thos. J. O'Neill	7	12	....	....	....	....	19	19	....
58	Pembroke	Mattawa	Third Tuesday	John de Sousa	A. N. Grasswell	....	....	....	1	....	....	39	.....	1
59	Sussex	Brockville	Friday on or b f. m.	A. E. Cumming	W. W. Wood	6	1	....	1	....	....	71	6	....
60	Doric	Newmarket	First Weduesday	A. McClellan	J. E. Hughes	17	....	....	....	....	....	54	17	....
61	Granite	Almonte	Second Monday	R. Chisholm	J. M. Munro	1	....	....	....	....	....	28	1	....
62	York	Eglinton	First Thursday	H. J. Southby	R. J. Gibson	4	....	....	2	9	1	34	....	8
63	Havelock	Kincardine	Third Thursday	J. C. Cooke	M. J. Macpherson	4	1	....	2	....	2	50	1	....
64	Willson	Welland	Last Wednesday	J. H. Howell	J. H. Crow	2	....	....	....	....	....	48	2	....
65	St. Paul's	Toronto	Second Wednesday	Geo. Kappele	Samuel King	13	1	....	2	2	1	98	9	.....
66	Malloch	Seaforth	Friday b. f. m.	P. J. Macdonald	L. C. Jackson	2	1	....	....	2	1	29	....	....
67	Enterprise	Harriston	First Monday	John Livingstone	David Clapp	4	1	1	3	....	....	36	3	....
68	Maitland	North Augusta	First Friday af. f. m.	J. Chapman	J. H. McGully	....	....	....	....	....	....	28	....	....
69	Grimsby	Grimsby	First Wednesday	W. E. Millward	Wm. Forbes	2	....	....	....	....	....	28	2	....
70	Grand River	Bracebridge	Third Thursday	James Whitten	F. P. Warne	4	....	....	....	3	1	42	....	....
71	Prince of Wales	Amherstburgh	Monday af. f. m.	Henry A. Hackett	F. M. Falls	....	....	....	....	....	2	30	....	2
72	Keystone	Stirling	Wednesday b. f. m.	H. J. Meiklejohn	W. C. Boardman	2	....	....	1	7	....	33	....	6
73	Erie	Ridgetown	Monday af. f. m.	Geo. Middleditch	J. A. C. Anderson	3	....	..	2	3	....	42	....	2
75	St. Clair	Milton	Second Tuesday	Conrad Hoff	R. Coates	....	....	....	....	....	....	22	.....	....
76	Mount Nebo	Niagara Falls South	Friday on or b. f. m.	R. Sloggett	George Wyatt	....	....	1	1	....	1	44	....	1
77	Occident	Toronto	Second Friday	John J. Main	W. J. Guy	10	....	....	2	1	2	69	5	....
78	Minnewawa	Parkhill	Friday on or af. f. m.	Geo. Sutherland	L. N. Phipper	2	....	....	2	....	....	33	....	....
79	Orient	Toronto	Fourth Thursday	Geo. J. Mason	Robt. J. Beeman	8	1	....	3	....	2	84	4	....
80	Ark	Windsor	Second Monday	Wm. Atkinson	R. H. Revell	3	....	....	9	14	2	86	....	22
81	Aylmer	Aylmer	Friday on or af. f. m	G. F. Clarke	J. E. Richards	....	1	....	1	....	2	52	....	2
82	Shuniah	Port Arthur	Third Friday	Alfred H. Chase	John Ritchie	5	....	....	1	....	1	55	3	....
83	Ionic	Orangeville	Tues'y on or af. f. m.	J. N. Fish	D. McPherson	3	....	....	3	....	1	51	....	1
84	Lebanon	Wingham	Third Tuesday	Jos. Galley	J. A. Morton	2	....	....	2	....	....	32	....	....
85	Exeter	Exeter;	First Tuesday	H. Spackman	E. A. K. McLeod	....	....	....	....	....	2	25	.....	2
86	Macpherson	Meaford	Thurs. on or b. f. m.	F. D. Kent, M.D	W. H. Sing	3	....	....	1	....	1	26	1	....
88	Macnabb	Dresden	First Thursday	W. H. Switzer	Jas. H. McVean	9	....	....	....	....	....	46	9	....
90	Golden	Rat Portage	Second Wednesday	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	24	....	....
91	Antiquity	Toronto	Third Monday	John C. Gray	Geo. W. Verral	12	1	1	4	6	....	86	4	....
94	Midland	Lindsay	First Thursday	J. W. Wallace	G. S. Patrick	4	....	....	1	....	....	43	3	....
95	Tuscan	Sudbury	Tuesday af. f. m.	C. R. Reid	W. A. Evans	1	....	....	1	6	....	37	.....	6
98	Vancouver	Vancouver	Second Wednesday	J. W. Prescott	Henry H. Watson	7	1	..	2	....	....	116	6	....
100	St Lawrence	Brockville	First Thursday	E A. Geiger	John S. Mix	6	....	....	2	....	1	46	3	....
101	Corinthian	Boissevain	Wednesday af. f. m	Thos. Williamson	J. J. Milledge	..	....	....	....	....	....	28	....	....
102	Algonquin	Sault Ste. Marie	Second Friday	Wm. Turner	Thos. H. Elliott	3	....	....	....	5	3	41	....	5
103	St. John's	North Bay	Third Monday	J. T. Lovell	Wm. B. Way	....	....	....	....	....	....	47	....	....
104	White Oak	Oakville	Tuesday af. f.m	W H. Robinson	Henry Wilson	....	....	....	....	....	....	34	....	....
105	Signet	Winnipeg	Fourth Wednesday	A. W. Chapman	H. Cockman	5	2	....	2	....	1	77	4	....
106	Alberta	Calgary	First Tuesday	John Walker	E. N. Brown	7	3	....	3	....	....	55	7	....

RETURNS OF SUBORDINATE CHAPTERS, 31ST DECEMBER, 1898.

No.	Name of Chapter.	Where Held.	Regular Meeting.	First Principal Z.	Scribe E.	Admissions.	Joinings.	Restorations.	Withdrawals.	Suspensions.	Deaths.	Members.	Increase.	Decrease.
110	Warkworth	Warkworth	Wednesday af. f. m.	A. M. Hamilton	H. E. Ewing	4	....	....	....	....	....	35	4	....
111	Zeredatha	Morden, Man.	First Wednesday	P. Rutherford	H. Meikie	1	....	....	....	....	....	26	1	....
112	St John's	Morrisburg	Tues'y on or af. f. m.	G. H. S. Kennedy	W. K. Farlinger	....	....	....	....	....	....	32	....	....
113	Covenant	Cornwall	Wednesday af. f. m.	N. J. Fraed	F. Bisset	16	2	....	4	....	....	51	14	....
114	Bonnechere	Renfrew	Third Monday	A. B. Taylor	John Mackey	12	....	....	....	....	....	41	12	....
115	Brant	Paris	Third Friday	A. N. Parney	S. Y. Taylor	1	1	....	1	....	....	32	1	....
116	Maple	Carleton Place	First Tuesday	D. N. McIntosh	J. M. Sinclair	1	....	....	1	....	1	35	....	1
117	Berlin	Berlin	Third Monday	E. P. Cornell	C. W. Schiedel	4	1	....	1	4	1	26	....	1
118	North Star	Edmonton	Second Tuesday	D. C. Robertson	Wm. Short	1	2	....	....	....	....	19	3	....
119	King Cyrus	Leamington	Second Wednesday	W. C. Coulson	J. S. Greenhill	6	....	....	....	....	.	30	6	....
120	Kootenay	Kaslo	Second Tuesday	E. E. Chipman	A. W. Goodenough	7	....	....	2	....	....	29	5	....
121	Wascana	Regina	Second Thursday	J. M. Young	R. B. Fergusson	8	....	....	....	....	....	39	8	....
122	Rossland	Rossland	First Tuesday	George A. Mitchell	Keith Lackey	13	12	....	....	....	2	25	23	....
						500	60	13	112	104	68	5594	371	78

RECAPITULATION.

No. of Chapters on the Roll	96
" Chapters represented	59
" Registrations	500
" Joinings	60
" Restorations	13
" Withdrawals	112
" Suspensions	104
" Deaths	68
Total number on the Roll	**5594**

SUSPENSIONS, U. M. C.

No. 8. Thos. Sargant, Toronto.

No. 34. Sydney J. Sanford, Barrie.

SUSPENSIONS, N. P. D.

No. 2. J. B. Buckingham, W. Martin, J. V. Hedenberg, S. Medley, W. S. Gilmore, S. Cline, R. Junor, T. C. Allardice, H. G. Frasi, T. Heddon, J. A. Martin, R. Renton, G. McKnight.

No. 6. J. Bicknell, R. Irwin, C. J. Lancefield.

No. 7. A. Brignall, J. Caverly, S. Daw, S. Harryatt, H. Klingbeil, S. Spangenberg.

No. 16. S. Beson, D. R. Macfarlane, D. G. Robinson, W. R. Stroud.

No. 22. E. C. Field.

No. 30. F. F. Lawrence, D. McLeod, James Robinson, W. McLean, D. Ferguson, W. H. Smith.

No. 34. R. R. Hohl, C. H. Bosanko.

No. 45. L. F. Purdy.

No. 52. C. A. Skeffington, J. G. Harvey, C. Williams.

No. 54. E. Bennett, G. E. Casey.

No. 62. J. Shepard, R. J. Bulmer, G. H. Brookes, C. Sinclair, A. Crawford, R. F. Williams, J. C. Lines, S. Cracker, S. H. Jeffrey.

No. 65. D. Armour, H. V. Knight.

No. 66. Thomas Smallcombe, T. L. Fortune.

No. 70. J. E. Lount, Frank Hornsby, S. J. Hart.

No. 72. W. Bonter. A. E. Bailey, W. Wickett, B. O. Lott, J. Vanallan, J. N. Ciarke, Thomas Crowe.

No. 73. J. E. Vair, Fred. Plastow, Mitchell Dykes.

No. 80. W. C. Armstrong, And. Cleugh, D. T. Copus, F. B. Hewson, Geo. Irwin, R. S. McDonald, Jno. Morrow, Thomas Mills, G K Prowse, G. W. Price, C. G. Richards, Thomas Robinson, W. Reid, James Kerr.

No. 91. G. T. Pendrith, J. R. Elmes, J. Reed, John Brown, W. T. Edwards.

No. 102. C. Sanders, N. W. Welch, Stanford Gordon, B. C. Moore, W. W. Williams.

No. 117. H. J. Hall, W. Hendry, G. Moore, J. M. Scully.

RESTORATIONS.

No. 2. W. R. Fish.
No. 16. J. B. Wright, L. W. Coutlee.
No. 20. Alex. McLellan.
No. 22. J. N. Graham.
No. 26. J. B. Christie.
No. 30. A. Ellerby.
No. 37. J. Dickenson.
No. 52. H. J. Raymer, L. A. Cusack.
No. 67. Alexander Michie.
No 76. Alf. W. Martin.
No. 91. H. A. Yuille.

Our
Departed
Companions
IN MEMORIAM

Deaths.

No. of Chap.	NAME.	DEATHS.
1	Henry Brame	April 21st
1	Thomas F. Taylor	December 21st.
2	John Patterson	May, 1898.
2	Robt. Menary	December, 1898
3	A. S. Abbott	January 5th
3	B. J. Nash	January 3rd.
3	W. J. Clarke	January 23rd
3	A. R. Rowat	April 6th
4	W. Hamilton	March 2nd
4	Thomas Pells	July 4th
4	Francis Richardson	October 11th
5	L. W. Burke	January 3rd
6	M. E. Bessey	March 14th
6	Joseph Herron	May 11th
6	J. W. Murton	October 24th
6	T. W. Leggo	December 9th
7	Charles Hudson	October 13th
8	W. E. Riley	January 15th
8	S G. Stoodley	June 14th
16	Geo. Harris	April 5th
16	James Smeaton	October 21st
23	E. G. Wells	October 31st
24	James Green	July 12th
24	Thomas Miller	October 10th
28	R. T. Kirkpatrick	September 30th
31	D. B. Nixon	December 4th
32	Thomas Cowan	October 14th
44	Hugh Rankin	October 25th
46	J. W. Robinson	
48	C. T. McCallum	August 20th.
52	J. Hursell	February 3rd
52	F. A. Fairchild	October 9th
54	W. S. Callahan	January, 1898
54	Alex. Mason	October, 1898
54	E. Wardle	October 29th
56	Geo. Inglis	March 1st
56	James Douglas	February 13th
60	R. D. Prest	December 20th, 1897
62	John McCarter	October 17th
63	David Collins	September 22nd
63	W. M. McKibbin	September 25th

Deaths.

No. of Chap.	NAME.	DEATHS.
65	A. J. Franks	June 9th
66	Geo. Ewing	September 4th
70	R. U. Topp	September 7th
71	E. C. Gatfield	January 13th
71	H. Sharp	October 18th
76	Chas. Keller	June 7th
77	T. Newman	September 26th
77	D. Weeks	October 23rd
79	J. H. Ayre	September 12th
79	Matt Evans	December 8th
80	John Barnes	April 18th
80	Robert McGuire	August 2nd
81	J. Sweet	February 5th
81	Asa Miller	June 1st
82	Marshall Macken	
83	H. D. Fraser	February 17th
85	J. Bowerman	March 26th
85	W. Brooks	December 21st
86	Dr. Snelgrove	February 22nd
100	Albert Reynolds	July 15th
102	T. A. Brown	January 12th
102	J. W. Dunne	April 1st
102	John Boyd	June 28th
105	John Chambers	July 24th
116	J. Rushworth	January 20th
117	H. Zaffe	June 9th
122	Alex. L. McDonald	December 10th
122	W. J. Cain	November 1st

R. EX. COMPANION

Francis Richardson

P. G. SUPT.

Died Oct. 11th, 1898

TORONTO

R. EX. COMPANION

John W. Murton

P. G. SUPT.

Died October 24th, 1898

HAMILTON

OFFICERS OF THE GRAND CHAPTER.

THE GRAND Z.

M. E. Comp. W. G. Reid ..... Hamilton

THE GRAND H.

R. E. Comp. W. Gibson, M.P..... Beamsville

THE GRAND J.

R. E. Comp. A. Shaw. ..... Kingston

GRAND SUPERINTENDENTS.

R. E. Comp.	T. Peters, Walkerville,	St. Clair	Dist. No.	1
" "	H. Roe, St. Thomas,	London	"	2
" "	W. Kennedy, Vittoria,	Wilson	"	3
" "	G. Leighton, Harriston,	Wellington	"	4
" "	F. Walter, Hamilton,	Hamilton	"	5
" "	W. Elliott, Mitchell,	Huron	"	6
" "	C. Burch, St. Catharines,	Niagara	"	7
" "	A. D. Ponton, Toronto,	Toronto	"	8
" "	J. Whitten, Bracebridge,	Georgian	"	9
" "	J. R. Fitzgerald, Colborne,	Ontario	"	10
" "	G. N. Rose, Waupoos,	Pr. Edward	"	11
" "	W. Thomson, Kingston,	St. Lawrence	"	12
" "	J. M. Munro, Almonte,	Ottawa	"	13
" "	Alex. Allen, Port Arthur	Algoma	"	14
" "	C. H. Enderton, Winnipeg,	Manitoba	"	15
" "	Thos. Clouston, Vancouver,	B. Columbia	"	16
" "	A. W. R. Markley, Calgary,	Alberta, N.W.T.	"	17

GRAND SCRIBE E.

R. E. Comp. Geo. J. Bennett..... Toronto

GRAND SCRIBE N.

R. E. Comp. Chris. McLellan... ..... Stratford

GRAND PRINCIPAL SOJOURNER.

R. E. Comp. L. K. Murton..... Oshawa

GRAND TREASURER.

R. E. Comp. Hugh Murray ..... Hamilton

GRAND REGISTRAR.

R. E. Comp. J. C. Morgan..... Barrie

APPOINTED OFFICERS.

V. E. Comp.	W. Caw, M.D., Parkhill,	Grand	1st Asst.	Sojourner
" "	Geo. B. Quamby, Windsor,	"	2nd "	"
R. E. "	J. B. Nixon, Toronto,	"	Lecturer	
V. E. "	Jonathan Greene, Brockville,	"	Sword Bearer	
" "	E. Nelson Brown, Calgary,	"	Master of 1st Veil	
" "	R. H. Arthur, M.D., Sudbury,	"	Master of 2nd Veil	
" "	R. E. Cheswright, Seaforth,	"	Master of 3rd Veil	
" "	David J. Walker, Trenton,	"	Master of 4th Veil	
" "	Frank Reid, Simcoe,	"	Standard Bearer	
" "	V. G. Cornwall, Colborne,	"	Direct'r of Ceremonies	
" "	W. E. Brown, Hamilton,	"	Organist	
" "	T. J. Stevenson, Merritton,	"	Pursuivant	
" "	J. C. Cooke, Kincardine,	"	Steward	
" "	W. E. Hazley, Winnipeg,	"	Steward	
" "	W. H. Best, Toronto,	"	Steward	
" "	Robert Pollock, Almonte,	"	Steward	

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

R. E. Comp. Wm. Gibson, M.P., Beamsville, President.

BY VIRTUE OF OFFICE.

M. E. Comp.	Judge Harding	Lindsay
" "	Donald Ross	Picton
" "	Robert Hendry, Jr	Kingston
" "	R. B. Hungerford	London
" "	J. J. Mason	Hamilton
" "	Henry Robertson	Colllngwood
" "	Kivas Tully	Toronto
" "	J. Ross Robertson	Toronto
" "	M. Walsh	Ingersoll
" "	A. Shaw	Kingston

GRAND SUPERINTENDENTS.

R. E. Comp.	T. Peters, Walkerville,	St. Clair	Dist. No.	1
" "	H. Roe, St. Thomas,	London	"	2
" "	W. Kennedy, Vittoria,	Wilson	"	3
" "	G. Leighton, Harriston,	Wellington	"	4
" "	F. Walter, Hamilton,	Hamilton	"	5
" "	W. Elliott, Mitchell,	Huron	"	6
" "	C. Burch, St. Catharines,	Niagara	"	7
" "	A. D. Ponton, Toronto,	Toronto	"	8
" "	J. Whitten, Bracebridge,	Georgian	"	9
" "	J. R. Fitzgerald, Colborne,	Ontario	"	10
" "	G. N. Rose, Waupoos,	Pr. Edward	"	11
" "	W. Thomson, Kingston,	St. Lawrence	"	12
" "	J. M. Munro, Almonte,	Ottawa	"	13
" "	Alex. Allen, Port Arthur,	Algoma	"	14
" "	C. H. Enderton, Winnipeg,	Manitoba	"	15
" "	Thos. Clouston, Vancouver,	B. Columbia	"	16
" "	A. W. R. Markley, Calgrry,	Alberta, N.W.T.	"	17

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS.

R. E. Comp. Geo. J. Bennett, Toronto.....Grand Scribe E.
" " C. McLellan, Stratford.....Grand Scribe N.

ELECTED BY GRAND CHAPTER.

R. E. Comp. A. R. Hargraft.....Cobourg
" " D. F. McWatt.....Barrie
" " D. H Martyn.....Kincardine
" " W. T. Toner.....Collingwood
" " Wm. Roaf.....Toronto

APPOINTED BY GRAND Z.

R. E. Comp. Wm. Birrell.....Hamilton
" " W. B. McArthur.....Ottawa
" " Robert Scott.....Petrolea
" " John Leslie.....Winnipeg
" " R. G. W. Conolly.....Dunnville

SUB-COMMITTEES.

AUDIT AND FINANCE.

R. E. Comps. A. Shaw, Chairman; F. Walter, Wm. Elliott, J. A. Whitten, Thos. Clouston, W. Thomson, C. H. Enderton, G. Leighton.

BENEVOLENCE.

M. E. Comps. J. E. Harding, Chairman; R. B. Hungerford, R. E. Comp. J. S. Dewar.

GRIEVANCES AND APPEALS.

R. E. Comps. D. F. MacWatt, Chairman; A. R. Hargraft, D. H. Martyn. T. Peters, Henry Roe, J. R. Fitzgerald, C. Burch, Alex. Allen, J. M. Munro.

GRAND Z.'S ADDRESS.

M. E. Comps. J. J. Mason, Chairman; J. Ross Robertson, J. E. Harding, R. Hendry. Jr., R. B. Hungerford, Kivas Tully, Donald Ross, H. Robertson, M. Walsh.

WARRANTS.

R. E. Comps. W. Birrell, Chairman; A. D. Ponton, G. N. Rose, W. Kennedy, C. McLellan, A. W. R. Markley.

CONDITION OF CAPITULAR MASONRY.

R. E. Comps. W. Roaf, Chairman, W. T. Toner, W. B. McArthur, R. Scott, R. G. W. Conolly, J. Leslie.

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

R. E. Comp. Geo. J. Bennett.

LIST OF CHAPTERS—BY DISTRICTS.

ST. CLAIR DISTRICT NO. 1.

Grand Superintendent—R. E. Comp. Thos. Peters, Walkerville.

No. 47,	Wellington.....Chatham	No. 80,	Ark.....Windsor
" 71,	Pr. of Wales. Amherstb'g	" 88,	Macnabb..... ..Dresden
" 73,	Erie.....Ridgetown	" 119,	King Cyrus..Leamington

LONDON DISTRICT NO 2.

Grand Superintendent—R. E. Comp. Henry Roe, St. Thomas.

No. 3,	St. John's.....London	No. 54,	Palestine.....St. Thomas
" 5,	St. George's.....London	" 87,	Minnewawa.....Parkhill
" 15,	Wawanosh.. .....Sarnia	" 81,	Aylmer..... ..Aylmer
" 53,	Bruce ....Petrolea		

WILSON DISTRICT, NO. 3

Grand Superintendent—R. E. Comp. W. Kennedy, Vittoria.

No. 18,	Oxford.....Woodstock	No. 41,	Harris .....Ingersoll
" 20,	Mount Horeb..Brantford	" 115,	Brant. .....Paris
" 23,	Ezra. ....Simcoe		

WELLINGTON DISTRICT, NO. 4.

Grand Superintendent—R. E. Comp. Geo. Leighton, Harriston.

No. 32,	Waterloo..... .....Galt	No. 67,	Enterprise .... Harriston
" 38,	Seymour.....Shelburne	" 83,	Ionic .. ..Orangeville
" 40,	Guelph .....Guelph	" 117,	Berlin .....Berlin

HAMILTON DISTRICT, NO. 5.

Grand Superintendent—R. E. Comp. Fred. Walter, Hamilton.

No. 2,	The Hiram ....Hamilton	No. 75,	St. Clair ..... Milton
" 6,	St. John's..... Hamilton	" 104,	White Oak .....Oakville

HURON DISTRICT, NO. 6.

Grand Superintendent—R. E. Comp. W. Elliott, Mitchell.

No. 24,	Tecumseh.....Stratford	No. 63,	Havelock .....Kincardine
" 30,	Huron.....Goderich	" 66,	The Malloch ....Seaforth
" 46,	St. James.....St. Marys	" 84,	Lebanon .....Wingham
" 50,	Saugeen .....Mitchell	" 85,	Exeter.. .....Exeter

NIAGARA DISTRICT NO. 7.

Grand Superintendent—R. E. Comp. Chas. Burch, St. Catharines.

No. 19,	Mt. Moriah.....St. Cath's	No. 64,	Willson ..... Welland
" 29,	McCallum .....Dunnville	" 69,	Grimsby.. .... Grimsby
" 55,	Niagara .....Niagara	" 76,	Mt. Nebo, Niagara Fs. S.
" 57,	King Hiram, Pt. Colborne		

TORONTO DISTRICT, NO. 8.

Grand Superintendent—R. E. Comp. A. D. Ponton, Toronto.

No. 4, S. And. & S. John, Toronto	No. 65, St. Paul's .....Toronto
" 8, King Solomon's..Toronto	" 77, Occident..... "
" 60, Doric .....Newmarket	" 79, Orient..... "
" 62, York.....Eglinton	" 91, Antiquity ..... "

GEORGIAN DISTRICT, NO. 9.

Grand Superintendent—R. E. Comp. J. Whitten, Bracebridge.

No. 27, Manitou . ..Collingwood	No. 70, Grand River....Braceb'ge
" 34, Signet.....Barrie	" 86, Macpherson .... Meaford
" 56, Georgian....Owen Sound	" 103, St. John's.....North Bay

ONTARIO DISTRICT NO. 10.

Grand Superintendent—R. E. Comp. J. R. Fitzgerald, Colborne.

No. 28, Pentalpha.....Oshawa	No. 45, Excelsior.....Colborne
" 35, Keystone .... ..Whitby	" 48, St John's.....Cobourg
" 36, Corinthian .... Peterboro	" 94, Midland..... Lindsay
" 37, Victoria.....Port Hope	" 110, Warkworth Warkworth

PRINCE EDWARD DISTRICT, NO. 11.

Grand Superintendent—R. E. Comp., G. Nelson Rose. Waupoos.

No. 7, Moira .... Bellville	No. 44, Mount Sinai....Napanee
" 26, St. Mark's .....Trenton	" 72, Keystone .....Stirling
" 31, Prince Edward....Picton	

ST. LAWRENCE DISTRICT, NO. 12.

Grand Superintendent—R. E. Comp. Wm. Thomson, Kingston.

No. 1, Anct. Frontenac and Cataraqui .....Kingston	No. 68, Maitland ....N. Augusta
	" 100, St. Lawrence..Brockville
" 22, Grenville .....Prescott	" 112, St. John's....Morrisburg
" 59, Sussex .....Brockville	" 113, Covenant.....Cornwall

OTTAWA DISTRICT, NO. 13.

Grand Superintendent—R. E. Comp. J. M. Munro, Almonte.

No. 16, Carleton.....Ottawa	No. 114, Bonnechere....Renfrew
" 58, Pembroke.....Mattawa	" 116, Maple ..Carleton Place
" 61, Granite.....Almonte	

ALGOMA DISTRICT, NO. 14.

Grand Superintendent—R. E. Comp. Alex. Allen, Pt. Arthur.

No. 82, Shuniah.....Port Arthur	No. 102, Algonquin ....Sault Ste. Marie.
" 90, Golden.....Rat Portage	
" 95, Tuscan;.....Sudbury	

MANITOBA DISTRICT, NO. 15.

Grand Superintendent—R. E. Comp. Chas. H. Enderton, Winnipeg.

No. 52, Pr. Rupert. . . Winnipeg
" 101, Corinthian . . . . Boissevain
No. 105, Signet. . . . . Winnipeg
" 111, Zeredatha . . . . . Morden

BRITISH COLUMBIA DISTRICT, NO. 16.

Grand Superintendent—R. E. Comp. Thos. Clouston, Vancouver.

No. 98, Vancouver. . . . Vancouver
" 120, Kootenay . . . . . Kaslo
No. 122, Rossland. . . . . Rossland

ALBERTA DISTRICT, NO. 17.

Grand Superintendent—R. E. Comp. A. W. R. Markley, Calgary.

No. 156, Alberta . . . . . Calgary
" 118, North Star. . . . Edmonton
No. 121, Wascana. . . . . Regina

GRAND REPRESENTATIVES AND GRAND SECRETARIES.

GRAND REPRESENTATIVES.								GRAND SECRETARIES.	
At Grand Chapter of Canada.			*Jurisdiction.*	*From Grand Chapter of Canada.*				*Name;*	*Address.*
R. E.	Comp.	W. B. McArthur	Ottawa	Alabama	E.	Comp.	Jos. H. Johnson	Talladega	H. C. Armstrong	Montgomery
"	"	C. A. Humber	Goderich	Arizona	R. E.	"	John M. Ormsby	Tuscan	Geo. J. Roskruge	Tucson
"	"	John McLaren	Orangeville	Arkansas	E.	"	S. A. Pernot	Van Buren	James A. Henry	Little Rock
"	"	Samuel Wesley	Barrie	California	M. E.	"	N. W. Spaulding	Oakland	Thos H. Caswell	San Francisco
"	"	A. McGinnis	Belleville	Colorado	E.	"	Lawrence N. Greenleaf	Denver	Ed. C. Parmelee	Denver
"	"	A. Shaw	Kingston	Connecticut	E.	"	W. R. Higby	Bridgeport	J. McCormick	Hartford
"	"	T. C. Macnabb	Chatham	Delaware	E.	"	Geo. F. Young	Wilmington	James H. Price	Wilmington
"	"	Hugh Murray	Hamilton	District of Columbia	M. E.	"	P. McCoy, M.D	Washington	A. W. Johnston	Washington
"	"	A. B. Munson	London	Florida	"	"	Robert J. Perry	Key West	Thos. G. Hutchinson	Jacksonville
M. E.	"	R. B. Hungerford	London	Georgia	"	"	W. A. Graham	Fort Gaines	W. A. Wolihin	Macon
R. E	"	Wm. Forbes	Grimsby	Illinois	"	"	C. H. Patton	Mt. Vernon	Gil. W. Barnard	Chicago
"	"	George Waugh	Stratford	Indiana	E.	"	Thos. R. Marshall	Colb'a City	W. H. Smythe	Indianapolis
"	"	D. H. Martyn	Kincardine	Indian Territory		"	John Rennie	Lehigh	Joseph S. Murrow	Atoka
"	"	C. W. Postlethwaite	Toronto	Iowa	E.	"	L. J. Baker	Ottumwa	Alf. Wingate	DesMoines
				Ireland	E.	"	J. H. Neilson	Dublin	Henry E. Flavelle	Dublin
"	"	J. M. Gibson	Hamilton	Kansas	M. E.	"	Jacob DeWitt	Salina	Jacob DeWitt	Salina
"	"	Wm. Walker	Toronto	Kentucky	"	"	H. R. French	Mt. Sterling	Henry B. Grant	Louisville
"	"	John Creasor	Owen Sound	Louisiana	R. E.	"	Andrew Hero, Jr.	New Orleans	Richard Lambert	New Orleans
"	"	B. Allen	Toronto	Maine	R. E.	"	Winfield S. Hinckley	Lisbon	Stephen Berry	Portland
				Maryland	E.	"	J. M. Carter	Baltimore	Geo. L. McCahan	Baltimore
M. E.	"	John E. Harding	Lindsay	Massachusetts	R. E.	"	Edwin Wright	Boston	J. Albert Blake	Boston
				Michigan					Jefferson S. Conover	Coldwater
R. E.	"	Wm. Downie	Vancouver	Minnesota	"	"	Orville G. Miller	St. Paul	Thos. Montgomery	St. Paul
"	"	J. A. Morton	Kincardine	Mississippi	"	"	P. W. Rowland	Coffeeville	J. L. Power	Jackson
"	"	Wm. Gibson	Beamsville	Missouri	"	"	Erwin Ellis	St. Louis	W. H. Mayo	St. Louis
				Montana					Cornelius Hedges	Helena
M. E.	"	J. Ross Robertson	Toronto	Nebraska	"	"	W. T. Whitmarsh	Omaha	Wm. R. Bowen	Omaha
"	"	J. J. Mason	Hamilton	Nevada	"	"	Frank Bell	Reno	C. N. Noteware	Carson City
R. E.	"	Jas. Sutherland	Woodstock	New Brunswick	"	"	R. Marshall	St. John, N.B	J. A. Watson	St. John
"	"	John S. Dewar	London	New Hampshire	"	"	Alphus W. Baker	Lebanon	Geo. P. Cleaves	Concord

R. E.	"	J. McLean Stevenson	Barrie	New Jersey	R. E. Comp.	"	W. H. McIlhaney	New York	Geo. B. Edwards	Jersey City
M. E.	"	Hy. Robertson	Collingwood	New York		"	W. G. Thirkell	New York	Christopher G. Fox	Buffalo
R. E.	"	James Wilson	Toronto	North Carolina	E.	"	Chas. C. Clarke.	New Berne	Horace H. Munson	Wilmington
"	"	Wm. G. Bell	Winnipeg	North Dakota	M. E.	"	Geo. H. Keyes	Ellendale	F. J. Thompson	Fargo
"	"	J. Moodie	Hamilton	Nova Scotia	E.	"	Neil McKelvie	Summerside	D. H. Campbell	Halifax
V. E.	"	Hugh A. Mackay	Berlin	Ohio	R. E.	"	C. A. Woodward	Cleveland	Edwin Hagenbuch	Urbana
R. E.	"	I. Baker	Stratford	Oregon	E.	"	Donald McKay	Portland	James F. Robinson	Eugene
"	"	Donald McPhie	Hamilton	Pennsylvania	R. E.	"	Thos. R. Patton	Philadelphia	Charles Cary	Philadelphia
"	"	D. F. MacWatt	Barrie	Quebec	M. E.	"	Will. H. Whyte	Montreal	Will H. Whyte	Montreal
M. E.	"	M. Walsh	Ingersoll	Rhode Ireland	R. E.	"	W. R. Greene	Providence	W. R. Greene	Providence
R. E.	"	J. K. Kerr	Toronto	Scotland		"	The Rt. Hon. the Earl of Kintore, Carleton Club, London, Eng.		Robt. S. Brown	Edinburgh
"	"	G. V. T. Greenhill	Windsor	South Carolina	E.	"	John R. Bellinger	Bamberg	J. T. Barron	Columbia
"	"	A. E. Cooper	London	South Dakota			Robt. T. Sedam	St. Lawrence	Geo. A. Pettigrew	Flandreau
"	"	H. H. Watson	Vancouver	Tennessee			Jos. H. Bullock	Paris	W. A. Clendenning	Nashville
"	"	E. T. Malone	Toronto	Texas	E.	"	George Lopaz	Texas	Geo. Lopas, Jr.	Houston
"	"	J. B. Nixon	Toronto	Vermont	E.	"	C. W. Whitcomb	Proctorville	Warren J. Reynolds	Burlington
M. E.	"	W. G. Reid	Hamilton	Victoria	R. E.	"	J. D'Amer Drew	Melbourne	John Braim	Melbourne
R. E.	"	Alex. Patterson	Toronto	Virginia	M. E.	"	Rev. G. H. Ray	Lynchburg	James B. Blanks	Petersburg
				Washington					Yancey C. Blalock	Walla Walla
"	"	David Taylor	Ottawa	West Virginia	R. E.	"	John A. Zorn	Wheeling	John W. Morris	Wheeling
"	"	Gavin Stewart	Woodstock	Wisconsin	M. E.	"	A. J. Wallace	Durant	John W. Laffin	Milwaukee

CHAIRMEN FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

Jurisdiction.	*Name.*	*Address.*	*Jurisdiction.*	*Name.*	*Address.*
Alabama	Palmer J Pillans	Belknap	Montana	Cornelius Hedges	Helena
Arizona	Henry D. Underwood	Tucson	Nebraska	William R. Bowen	Omaha
Arkansas	Reuben J. Laughlin	Bentonville	Nevada	Albert D. Bird	Reno
Carlifornia	William A. Davis	San Francisco	New Brunswick		
Canada	George J. Bennett	Toronto	New Hampshire	Albert S. Wait	Newport
Colorado	Earnest L. N. Foster	Denver	New Jersey	George B. Edwards	Jersey City
Connecticut	John H. Barlow	Birmingham	New South Wales		
Delaware	Virginius V. Harrison	Wilmington	New York	George J. Gardner	Syracuse
Dist. of Columbia	William R. Singleton	Washington	North Carolina	James Southgate	Durham
England			North Dakota		
Florida	Thos. G. Hutchison	Jacksonville	Nova Scotia		
Georgia	W. S. Ramsay	Dublin	Ohio	S. Stacker Williams	Newark
Illinois	John M. Pearson	Godfrey	Oregon	John M. Hodson	Portland
Indiana	Thomas B. Long	Terra Haute	Pennsylvania	Matthias H Henderson	Philadelphia
Indian Territory	Joseph S. Murrow	Atoka	Quebec	E. T. D. Chambers	Quebec
Iowa	Thomas R. Ercanbrack	Anamosa	Rhode Island	Henry W. Rugg	Providence
Ireland			Scotland		
Kansas	Jacob DeWitt	Salina	South Carolina	J. T. Barron	Columbia
Kentucky	James W. Staton	Brooksville	South Dakota	Louis J. Levoy	Webster
Louisiania	Herman C. Duncan	Alexandria	Tennessee	Henry H Ingersoll	Knoxville
Maine	Josiah H. Drummond	Portland	Texas	John L. Terrell	Terrell
Maryland	Edward T. Schultz	Baltimore	Vermont	Marsh O. Perkins	Windsor
Massachusetts	Seranus Bowen	Boston	Victoria		
Michigan	Jefferson S. Conover	Coldwater	Virginia	Charles A. Nesbitt	Richmond
Minnesota	Thomas Montgomery	St. Paul	Washington	Yancey C. Blalock	Walla Walla
Mississippi	Phineas M. Savery	Tupelo	West Virginia	John W. Morris	Wheeling
Missouri	William H. Mayo	St. Louis	Wisconsin	William C. Swain	Milwaukee

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ERRATA.

Pages 3 and 6—R. C. Cheesewright, should read R. C. Cheswright.

Page 6—Omitted — Havelock Chapter No. 63 Kincardine, R. E. Comp. D. H. Martyn, P. Z.

APPENDIX.

REPORT ON

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

To the M. E. the Grand Z, and the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Canada:

We have again to express regret that some of the proceedings have not reached us in time to be included with this report.

After a careful review of the proceedings of the Grand Chapters in correspondence with us, your committee takes pleasure in announcing that the Capitular world is enjoying a season of restful peace and confident prosperity. The advance has not been rapid, neither has it been confined to any section or sections of the continent, but it has been general and of the sure and steady character that invariably precedes a period of activity.

But little has transpired during the year to furnish material for controversy or debate, nevertheless the field has been fruitful of "wise saws and modern instances," and of these we have garnered to the capacity of our limits for the benefit of the Companions of Canada.

Alabama.

Chapters, 38; members, 1,023.

Josiah Jernigan, the M. E. Grand High Priest, greeting his Companions in the seventy-first annual Convocation at Montgomery on the 6th December, 1897, referred to the year just passed as one of peril.

"In our own beloved land, that dread pestilence 'which walketh in darkness and wasteth at noonday,' has left its pall of sorrow over many a home. Even this beautiful city, our Masonic as well as our civic capital, has not been spared. But a few days since its thoroughfares were deserted, a shadow of gloom and desolation hung over it, and the yellow ensign of terror and despair floated at many of its thresholds. But, thank God, the pall has been

lifted and the terror has passed. Paralyzed industry and commerce have been restored ; smiles and cheery greetings have succeeded days of foreboding and sadness.

"Out of this fearful ordeal has come a sweet and glorious consolation, for which we may all thank God and take courage. This consolation is drawn from the many noble examples of self-sacrifice and heroic devotion to duty, which the prevalence of the plague afforded us. Those grand men and women who elected to stay at the post of duty and face death that they might feed the starving poor, minister to the stricken and smooth the pillow of death, have earned the lasting gratitude of their fellows and demonstrated the God-like possibilities of human nature. No man can do a higher or nobler thing than they have done. Their conduct gives us a splendid illustration of the spirit and teachings of Masonry.

"The year, notwithstanding the providential drawbacks, has been a fairly prosperous one for the Order."

He appointed E. Comp. David Small, of Charlottetown, P. E. I., to represent Alabama near the Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia, and recommended E. Comp. W. E. Oakley, of Decatur, to hold Canada's commission near the Grand Chapter of Alabama.

He decided that a cork leg was not a barrier to an applicant for the Chapter degrees, and the committee on the address endorsed the decision.

"I regret to say that it has not been possible for me to make any official visits to the Chapters of our Jurisdiction during the year on account of pressing business engagements."

In view of the foregoing, the Finance Committee's statement is interesting.

"Capitular Masonry in this Juriseiction does not seem to prosper, viewed from a financial standpoint, inasmuch as fully twenty per cent. of the Chapters have failed to make returns and pay dues.

* * * * * *

"If these Chapters had performed their duties, as their officers have obligated themselves to do, the amounts due from them would have materially strengthened the financial condition of this Grand Chapter. Such a state of negligence, on the part of the Subordinate Chapters and their officers, is, to say the least, very culpable. We hope that this Grand Body will so legislate as to make the delinquents more careful, more accurate, and, above all, more prompt."

Undoubtedly Chapters, especially in remote districts, occasionally grow careless and require the impetus furnished by the visitation of inspecting or Grand Officers. It is not altogether fair to put the whole blame upon the neglected Chapters.

Seven Baltimore centennial medals to decorate the manly bosoms of a similar number of Past Grand High Priests were duly acknowledged.

In the previous year a motion to make the minimum fee thirty dollars was lost, and one to substitute the word "twenty" for "thirty" was laid over, with a rider added that "ministers of the gospel" in good standing in their lodges were to receive the Chapter degrees gratuitously. On this occasion the twenty dollar amendment received a black eye, and next year the original proposition for thirty, with the "minister of the gospel" appendage added, will come up for discussion. One would like to understand this apparent anxiety to gather in the brethren of the cloth.

Grand Chapter endorsed the objects of that worthy institution, the Jefferson County Masonic Home, and closed as usual with "solemn prayer."

The proceedings of forty-five Grand Chapters were carefully reviewed by the veteran Companion Pillans, Canada for 1896 being among the number. He quotes liberally and is kind enough to say of our report—

"Companion George J. Bennett, the worthy successor of Companion Robertson, as Chairman of the Committee on Correspondence, again presented a sprightly and sound review of the Proceedings of sixty-three Grand Chapters, in a style captivating and attractive, and with comments full of Masonic lore and entirely in accord with established Masonic usages."

Josiah Jernigan, Troy, Grand High Priest;

H. Clay Armstrong, Montgomery, Grand Secretary.

Arizona.

Chapters 5; members 214.

"Landmark," the new Chapter at Bisbee, was honored in the first year of its existence by the eighth annual Convocation of Grand Chapter, Nov. 10th, 1897.

Bisbee possesses a copper mining industry of large extent. The mine possesses an attraction in the way of a vast cave and the enterprising proprietors conceived the idea of advertising its wonders by inviting the Masonic Grand bodies to abandon the sun lit halls on the surface and descend to the bowels of the earth for the purpose of transacting business. The novelty of the proposal caught the fancy of the Arizona brethren and the mining directors fitted up the cave for their accommodation without regard to expense:

"The cave, which is probably one hundred and fifty by two hundred and fifty-feet in dimensions, and an extreme height of about one hundred feet from the lowest to the highest point, was lighted by electricity. Eighteen thousand feet of wire have been used for the purpose, and one hundred and thirty-five lamps were used, some of them one hundred candle power. In the east hung a brilliant letter G, three feet in height, and studded by thirty-five electric lights of sixteen-candle power, a thing of beauty and joy in itself. In the vast space overhead the lights formed a great square and compass, the distance between the points of the extended compass being one hundred feet and the length of each leg being one hundred and thirty feet. The figure, the strength, the symmetry, the polished alabaster, the glittering wealth of gold jewels of King Solomon's temple were here dazed and dimmed into insignificance by the brilliancy, the abounding wealth of exquisite forms of beauty, the majestic splendor of huge abutments literally covered by the most delicate tracery, the flash of a million jewels; the bold outline forms of grandeur and strength, clothed in glittering delicate chiseling, such as no human hand has ever wrought, the stupendous dome of the mountains above borne upon those noble and beautiful pillars, and all fresh from the hand of the Supreme Grand Architect of the Universe, filled one with the overwhelming emotions of surprise, of delight, of adoration.

"Stalactites from the size of a drop of water to that of the giant tusks of some antediluvian monster hung suspended from the roof, and beneath the white glare of the electric light they danced and shimmered like icicles in the sun. Singly and in cluster, some in blue and some in white, of all lengths and shapes, these stalactites cover the roof, while among them in labyrinthine irregularity glitters the crystal ooze.

"On the north side, almost opposite to where the cave was first broken into the lime, God has created the fairest creatures of His handiwork, and what King Solomon wrought in years was here fashioned in a single night; but a night that knew no day, nor the sound of axe, hammer or tool of iron till the operative workman, agreeably to the designs drawn upon the trestle board, revealed its hidden treasures. Here are the steps, the pot of

incense, the bee-hive the hour-glass and waterfall. The steps, whiter than Parian marble, lead upward and into an unexplored beyond ; the bee-hives, apparently made from great coils of alabaster rope, are from two to ten feet in diameter and six feet high. East of these is the waterfall, stayed midway in its descent by some hypnotic hand ; white and awe inspiring in its silent grandeur is this seemingly stilled torrent of foaming waters that ere it slept had dashed its spray on hummocks of ice in a thousand fantastic shapes sparkled in the light. There are curtains and veils behind which no man may enter, woven white and transparent in the cimmerian darkness. The whole aspect of the cave is one of entrancing and bewildering loveliness, and he who can gaze without awe upon the grand scene has no beauty in his soul. A sufficient portion of the cave for the use of the Masons had been floored and seated, and there beneath that great dome, seventy feet overhead, and surrounded by such glitter, such beauty, such strength, such overwhelming sense of location, such nearness and such a dependence upon the immediate handiwork of the Supreme Grand High Priest, the Grand Chapter of Arizona was called on."

The G. H. P's relation of his year's doings did not bristle with interest. He made no official visits nor did he deputize any one to perform the duty for him. In welcoming the representatives of other Grand Chapters the G. H. P. said :

"You who had the pleasure of being with us at our opening session may well say that you have been both operative and speculative Capitular Masons. You have descended into the bowels of our Mother Earth, you have penetrated to the innermost recesses of the cave, you have seen the handiwork of the Great Architect of the Universe in all its glory, you have had darkness made light before you, and crooked paths made straight. I trust that for all your arduous toil and labor your reward is ample. If you attempt to describe to the Grand Bodies you represent the wonders you have seen—trust not to your own memories—go back to the days of your childhood, when the stories of Aladdin and Ali Baba were your delight, and draw your inspiration from the source that the author of the Arabian Nights drew his. And when you shall have told all your memory can recall, when you have painted all your fancy can dictate, when imagination is weary and words cease, then, as did the Queen of Sheba, on beholding the glories of the Temple, say to our Companions that the half has not been told them."

The prospects for Arizona are good. All is harmony in the jurisdiction. They have an increase in membership and an increased cash balance.

Canada's representative was elected Grand High

Priest. Our congratulations to M. E. Comp. Ormsby, who will next year preside at the city of Globe which ought to have a cave but hasn't.

John M. Ormsby, Tucson, Grand High Priest.

Geo. J. Roskruge, Tucson, Grand Secretary.

Arkansas.

Chapters, 61 ; members, 1,641.

The figures would indicate a falling off in membership since last Convocation, but as eleven of the Chapters failed to make returns, the total as reported in the proceedings of the forty-eighth annual Convocation on the 18th November, 1897, at Little Rock, may be thus affected.

Grand High Priest Taylor welcomed the Companions and announced the death of P.G.H.P. J. M. Harkey.

He made no official visits, owing to a severe attack of la grippe, which still lingered with him. He managed, however, to put in an appearance at the convocations of his own Chapter. Closing his address he says,

"And if we fail in getting the benefits of Masonry it is simply our fault and not Masonry's.

'Truth being the great object of Masonic search,' we should steadily endeavor to ascertain it, and remember, Companions,

'The smallest pebble in the well of truth
Has its peculiar meaning, and will stand
When men's best monuments have passed away.'"

The Grand Secretary reported the arrest of three charters of delinquent Chapters. There would have been a fourth, but it was so remotely situated that no one could be found who would act as constable. In the case of six other dilatory Chapters, the G.S. recommended their abolition.

The Committee on Charters disapproved the practice of balloting on petitions out of regular time and recommended the issue of a warrant to the Chapter U. D. at Paris, Logan county.

There were no grievances for the Committee to report.

Companion R. J. Laughlin was as usual in charge of the Correspondence report, and had Canada for 1896 under his eye. He extracts freely from address and report and is good enough to commend us. Our replies on the subject to various correspondents he construes into a "busy defence" of Grand Chapter's action in eliminating the P.M. degree. Well, if it pleases Comp. Laughlin to put it that way, we won't feel hurt about it.

Commenting on a decision by a Kansas ruler, he has this to say, and we agree with him:—

"There must be a time when the connection with the Chapter is severed—when the dimit begins—and we think it is when the vote of the Chapter is announced. Some have contended that it does not become operative until the Secretary makes out the paper. When the law is complied with, and the vote of the Chapter announced, we think the Companion becomes a non-affiliate, whether or not he ever gets a certificate of the fact from the Secretary. It is the action of the Chapter (the dimit —permission to go) based on the application of the Companion, and not the paper (dimit) that makes him a non-affiliate."

Antonio B. Grace, Pine Bluff, Grand High Priest.

James A. Henry, Little Rock, Grand Secretary.

California.

Chapters, 66; members, 5,405.

To the forty-fourth annual Convocation held in San Francisco, April 19th, 1898. Grand High Priest W. Frank Pierce delivered an address that was characterized by its matter-of-fact and unadorned construction. There was nothing to startle the capitular circle this year, although the Cerneau pest was to the fore again in a decision of the Supreme Court and quoted by the G. H. P. As the preamble, like a lady's postscript, is the nut with the kernel, it is given herewith.

"A Grand Chapter has authority to prohibit Royal Arch Masons within its jurisdiction from affiliating with or soliciting others to affiliate with, the Order of Scottish Rite known as the 'Supreme Council of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Masonry for the United States of America, their Territories and Dependencies, commonly known as the United States Jurisdiction of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite.' The interest of a

Mason in the funds and property of a Masonic Body is incidental to his membership, and is not severable."

Of the Widow's and Orphan's Home, which was started in 1891, he writes:

"In 1891 a Board of Trustees was appointed by the Grand Lodge to take such action as necessary to raise funds to procure a home for the widows and orphans of Masons. I will not give in detail the work of the board; suffice it to say that after careful consideration a tract of land containing nearly three hundred acres was obtained at Decoto, Alameda county. The Board, continuing its efforts, managed to have the site prepared and the foundation of the building completed, so that the Grand Lodge, with fitting ceremonies, laid the corner-stone in October, 1896, since which time the Board has only partly secured sufficient funds to complete the building, but urged by the demands of the destitute it entered into a contract to have the main building completed on or before the 1st of next October, when the Grand Lodge at its next Communication will dedicate it. In order to accomplish this the Board had to become personally responsible, and now it appeals to the Grand Chapter to contribute to this charity—the grandest work of the Fraternity."

Grand Chapter subsequently donated $5,000 to this worthy object.

His visitations were frequent and observing the visible good to the Chapters he urges the system of district inspection.

Later the Committee on the Address endorsed his view, and recommended that the subject be left to a committee of three to report on at next Convocation.

The outgoing G. H. P. was requested to sit for his portrait to be placed in the portrait gallery of Grand Chapter.

Comp. W. A. Davies is again the author of the report on correspondence, and an extensive one it is. He gives to Canada a couple of pages of pleasant review.

R. E. Comp. George J. Bennett reviews the doings of forty seven Capitular Grand Bodies in an admirable paper of two hundred and seventeen pages. Our Right Excellent Companion is decided in his opinions, and heaves over among the rubbish, without a sign of regret, the Past Master's degree, and eloquently protests against the demoralizing tendency of public installations.

He pays California the compliment of an extended review,

and having for his subject the administration of Grand High Priest Hewel, is abundantly supplied with "food for comment." The other reported decisions of the Grand High Priest receive his approval, except, perhaps, in the matter of Benicia Chapter, in which Comp. Bennett thinks the conditions shown to exist "warranted a speedy funeral," and possibly without the benefit of clergy. Your diagnosis may be correct, Comp. Bennett; the truth is we have had that funeral advertised for the past five years, but, somehow, when the time arrived, the corpse was never ready. However, at present writing, our late Grand High Priest, Dr. Flint, in his anti-mortem examination, became convinced that life was not extinct, and lest there should be a premature burial, he withheld his "dispensation" for baked meats and coffee *In re* Benicia Chapter, No. 7. Confidentially, Comp. Bennett, our latest advices are "not much life, but great expectations;" Who can tell? Benicia, No. 7, may be mother's pride and consolation yet.

From the comments of Comp. Bennett upon the procedure of the Grand High Priest in the Cerneau rebellion against our laws and regulations, as illustrated in the discipline of Lawson and Frambes, we judge him to be in hearty concurrence with our efforts and the results thereof."

He concludes from our comment on California's treatment of the Cerneau rebellion that we heartily concurred. We did indeed and to the following we ejaculate, in the idiom of the land of our nativity "more power to your elbow."

"We are pleased to add to the record that upon the return of Missionary Frambes to his former pastures in Ohio, he was promptly placed on trial for interference with the laws and regulations of the Grand Lodge of Ohio, by the establishment of new Lodges in that jurisdiction, and for which acts he was as promptly expelled from the rights and privileges of Masonry. Vale Frambes."

A closing personal reference is quoted, not from vanity, but because there are one or two of our friends of the Guild who picture us in a different light.

"Comp. Bennett has a direct way of saying things really refreshing in these days of "diplomatic usage," when it is frequently understood that language is employed to conceal the real meaning of the speaker."

Colorado's Grand High Priest having expressed dissent from a proposed condensation of the Correspondence report, Comp. Davies voices our own opinion thus:

"We presume Comp. Foster would say with us, if asked our opinion: If you don't like your report, why, abolish the reporter; but for the credit and reputation of Grand Chapter, keep up your reports, for it is the only method by which you "keep in touch" with live Royal Arch Masonry."

His opinion of General Grand Chapter and its powers is furnished under an item in another report to the effect that "the question of charging a fee for demit was reported as not in accordance with the regulations of the General Grand. Here is what Comp. Davies pertinently says:

"The reporting against such fee was a good thing; the basing it upon the regulations of the General Grand Chapter was a (very) bad thing. There is an evil tendency abroad to enlarge the powers of that body. The existence of the General Grand Chapter and its prosperity demand that its powers be kept within the scope of its Constitution. They are enemies of that body who neglect those provisions of that instrument that strictly forbid such stretching of the law. As friends of the General Grand Chapter we raise a warning voice. There is danger in the air. It is within a twelve-month that we witnessed an attempt to enforce a doubtful authority of the General Grand Chapter. Those who attempted it were informed that if insistance was had, a resolution would be passed severing the connection between that Grand Chapter and the General Grand Chapter. We have every reason to believe that a decided majority could have been had in the affirmative. The proposition was fortunately withdrawn and the danger averted. The General Grand Chapter will live, and it will continue its career of great usefulness so long as it stands within its powers. But it transcends those powers at its peril."

And there are other General Grands that may profit by the warning.

Eli Tucker Blackmer, San Diego, Grand High Priest.

T. H. Caswell, San Francisco, Grand Secretary.

Colorado.

Chapters, 33; members, 2,486.

A loss of four in the total strength, but there is no intimation of weakness or despondency in the reports presented to the twenty-third annual Convocation which met at Denver on the morning of September 22, 1897. Grand High Priest James H. Peabody submitted an address that breathed a spirit of satisfaction with the present and confidence in the future.

"The years have linings just as goblets do,
The old year is the lining of the new,
Filled with the wine of precious memories,
The golden 'was' doth line the silver 'is.'"

"Love and peace have been ours to enjoy in the past. May God grant that peace and love may continue among us to the end."

He notes the appointment of R. E. Comp. Arthur McGinnis, of Belleville, Ont., to represent Colorado near the Grand Chapter of Canada.

Properly he declined the request of sixteen Companions at Victor for a new Chapter, that at Cripple Creek eight miles distant, having only one blue lodge to draw from.

The secretary of a Chapter wrote, asking if a licensed druggist was eligible to take the degrees. He replied :—

"Our Grand Lodge By-Law No. 125, and our Grand Chapter By-Law No. 59, were framed and adopted, *not* to taboo the name of any business, but to prevent our members from becoming vendors of intoxicating liquors, whether it should be under the name of grocer, saloon keeper or druggist, and my opinion is that a druggist who sells liquor *as a beverage* is as clearly under the ban of the law, as though he sold it under some other name, and would be ineligible for the Chapter degrees." My reply was evidently not what he had expected, for he again wrote that my reply was "all right so far as it went, but druggists in ————city did not sell liquor as a beverage ; therefore, would like your decision on the subject." To this curt letter I replied as follows :

"One of the duties of a Grand High Priest is to explain the law to his companions and to Subordinate Chapters when called upon to do so. The application of the law to specific cases is wisely left to the determination and discretion of the individual Chapters. In my letter of June 24, inst., I stated that in my opinion a druggist who sold intoxicating liquor as a beverage came under the operation of the law in such cases. Of course, if he does not sell liquor in the conduct of his business, except for medicinal, mechanical, experimental or sacramental purposes, the negative would apply. This is the meaning of the law. Your Chapter must apply it to the specific case cited."

Referring to a recent spasm of economy that seized Grand Chapter, he said,—

"Our able report on foreign correspondence had better be omitted altogether than presented in the necessarily brief and

emasculated shape it must be, if reduced to fifty pages, under the resolution, and I sincerely hope that the funds of this Grand Chapter will be found in such satisfactory condition at this time to warrant the revocation of the resolution referred to."

He treats at some length the lack of uniformity in working, and which, from his account of it, must be in a bad way.

"For the past three years this Grand Chapter has been drifting about upon the ritualistic sea, without mast or rudder, having no definite rule governing the ceremonies and lectures of the several degrees, and no two Chapters using the same rituals, consequently there has been no uniformity of the work. One year we endeavored to make use of the work as promulgated by the General Grand Chapter, and my eminent and esteemed predecessor, M.E. Companion West, employed the greater portion of his time for a year in instructing the Subordinate Chapters and the various officers thereof in that particular work. But the result proved a dismal failure. At the next Convocation of this Grand Chapter, the Representatives of these Subordinate Chapters came up and asked for an abolishment of that ritual, or that some radical changes therein might be permitted. Your committee recommended that Chapters be allowed to add an 'historical lecture' here, and administer 'practical lessons' there, and so on, until the work of the several degrees in this jurisdiction is at this time confounded, yea, unto the confusion of Babel."

He closes with a recommendation that "The Signet of Royal Arch Masonry" be adopted.

The Denver Masonic Temple Association had appealed for aid from Grand Chapter in the line of contributing to the list of paying tenants. The special Committee reported that they

"Would gladly recommend the appropriation of moneys to its benefit, were it not for the fact that we are informed by the Finance Committee that the revenues of this Grand Chapter do not equal its expenditures. We therefore recommend that no action be taken at this time."

Within the narrow compass of 57 pages, Comp. Foster essays to review the proceedings of 45 jurisdictions. He accomplished the task, but it is far removed from the success attending previous efforts. How could it be otherwise? Next year we trust he will be accorded a freer hand. To Canada he generously gives a couple of pages. Of the report on the Condition of Capitular Masonry. He says:—

"The full reports and unsparing use of the knife to eradicate errors by this and all the Grand Chapter committees will undoubtedly bear its fruit in after years, and the zeal and fidelity of these companions will be rewarded by the increased strength and growth of Royal Arch Masonry."

He commends the report on Correspondence, which he is kind enough to say, "is a most excellent piece of work."

"As would naturally be the case, he devotes a good deal of attention to the remarks of other jurisdictions on the action of Canada in dispensing with the Past Master's Degree, and most valiantly defends its course. His conclusion contains a just tribute to Britain's noble Queen, and rejoices with her millions of subjects in celebrating the completion of the sixtieth year of her reign. So that our inborn loyalty to our mother country constrains us to quote his last words on this subject."

He concludes with an interesting compilation of decisions, culled from the various jurisdictions reviewed.

W. D. Peirce, Denver, Grand High Priest.

Ed. C. Parmelee, Denver, Grand Secretary.

Connecticut.

Chapters 39; Members 5741.

At its centenary Convocation this hale old Grand Chapter furnished as an evidence of its vitality, an increase of two hundred and twenty to the membership and in every other respect its strength and influence was apparent. Every Chapter was represented at this hundredth Convocation which was held at West Haven on July 8th, 1897, and many distinguished visitors, including the General Grand High Priest were present.

M. E. Comp. I. F. Stidham, welcomed the gathering

"Excellent and honored Companions, representatives of six thousand tried and true craftsmen, we stand in a dignified and solemn hour. With the fall of my gavel as your presiding officer, there opened the one hundredth Convocation of this Grand Chapter."

. . . . . .

"Companions, lovers and servants of the Most High God are we, and the sublime lessons of our ritual teach us—and its incitements has ever sought to inspire us—to love our God more and to serve Him better.

"But that ritual has left metaphysics to the schools, and has contented itself in inspiring us to know that he best loved and best served his God who best loved and best served his fellow-man; and so it has developed in us patriotism and humanity, love of our country and love for our fellow-man. Companions, we are Masons, and because we are Masons we are patriots and lovers of our fellows. Wafted from the sea to the land comes the heavy boom of our cruisers' cannon; out from the land to the sea goes the sound of the measured tramp of armed hosts. Our centennial occurs in the midst of grave and stirring events. The nation, peace loving and long patient, has risen and spoken for humanity, and the whole world is convulsed. Who can doubt the issue?"

Having referred to the preparations for the celebration of the centennial and paid due tribute to the Companions called away, he detailed his visitations and pertinently said:

"No doubt the special idea of the Grand Chapter in ordering these visitations is the uniformity of the ritual and a particular oversight of subordinate Chapters, but an incidental but important result additional to this is gained. The membership is brought out, then acquaintance with each other enlarged, good fellowship is cultivated, and interest in the work of the Chapter is wrought up. Hence they are to be encouraged as valuable to the Craft."

A Connecticut Chapter applied for permission to confer the degrees on a brother whose residence was within the jurisdiction of Pennsylvania. The latter declined to waive jurisdiction on the ground of the candidates' physical disability. The G. H. P. adds:

"A personal conversation with the Most Eminent Grand High Priest of Pennsylvania discloses a ruling which would not obtain in this, or in a large number of sister jurisdictions."

One would like to know what that ruling is. It might help along a few spirited controversies on the "perfect youth" question.

The reports of the other Grand officers on visitations to the subordinates, revealed a vast amount of good work accomplished.

The Grand Chapters of Victoria and New Zealand were accorded recognition.

Canada for 1898, had not reached M. E. Comp. J. H.

Barlow, therefore he could not include it in his admirable report on Correspondence. Comp. Barlow is truly one of the veterans of the corps, this being his twenty-first consecutive review. His opinions are generally sound and when put into cold type are invariably seized upon. To Alabama's cork leg decision he promptly says :

"We cannot endorse that decision. He cannot conform to requirements of the degree, except by false appliances, which we do not think contemplated in the regulation."

From his conclusion we take the following :

"We are pleased to report the royal craft in a harmonious and healthy condition, thirty-five jurisdictions reporting a gain in membership, amounting in the aggregate to 6,523, and 11 reporting a slight loss, amounting to 231, making a net gain of 6,292, as compared with last year.

"We have endeavored to give as much information as possible from the proceedings reviewed, without making many lengthy comments of our own, which seems unnecessary, as no new questions have been presented, and we have fully expressed our views of all the old ones and do not need to repeat them."

Harvey S. Abel, Stafford Springs, Grand High Priest.

James McCormick, Hartford, Grand Secretary.

Delaware.

Chapters, 4; membership, 647.

Wilmington as usual was honored by Grand Chapter which met in thirtieth annual Convocation on the 19th January, 1898, and for the second time was presided over by M. E. Comp. V. V. Harrison, who congratulated the gathering on the progress made during the year, the net increase being twenty-three.

The privilege given to the reverend Companions who by the law are eligible to be elected to the position of Grand Chaplain and thereby a permanent officer without having attained the principal chair in the subordinate Chapter, appeared to the G.H.P. as an injustice and he recommended the repeal, on due notice, of the objectionable regulation.

The Committee on the Address reported favorably and the proposed amendment will be dealt with next January.

The G. H. P. recalls pleasant memories of his visit to General Grand Chapter at Baltimore, and dwells lovingly on the hospitality of the Maryland Companions and the benefits of enjoying such a social reunion.

He is enthusiastic on the subject of the Order of High Priests.

"We recognize that it is not absolutely necessary for the legal discharge of his duties that a High Priest should receive the Order. But it is very appropriate, as it bears the same relation to the office of High Priest as the P. M. degree does to that of W. M. I therefore recommend that you, by resolution, request that every High Priest as soon as convenient after his election, apply to the Convention of High Priesthood for admission."

Having advanced some cogent reasons for his opinion, he recommends that there should be a probationary period of six months between the Master Mason and the Mark degrees.

"So that a Brother might learn to appreciate the beauties of symbolic Masonry before being permitted to engage in the great and glorious work of rebuilding the Mystic City and Temple."

The Committee on the Address subsequently declined to make any recommendation in the matter.

Comp. Harrison found time to attend to the Correspondence report and displayed no falling away from his usual standard of excellence. He says of us:

"We again greet the report on Correspondence by Companion George J. Bennett. This is his second and does him credit. He drops right into the business like a veteran."

"He agrees with us that public installations are not the proper thing and should be discouraged. To the best of our recollection there has never been a public installation in Delaware, and we hope that there never will be."

To the New York reporter whose view regarding the actual presence of the charter to legitimise the proceedings of a convocation, are elastic, he directs the following with which we are in accord:

"The Companion still maintains his position in reference to

the absolute presence of the charter, and thinks "it sheer nonsense to attach so much importance to a mere certificate of an act." Well, perhaps so. But, I fear as we advance along the line we are apt, from a logical standpoint, to lose sight of old landmarks. The Masonic organization is distinctive. No other is governed as it is by forms and usages that have come down the ages unaltered and unamended. Let us at all hazards preserve these forms and usages, and not attempt to reason out that they are wrong from a nineteenth century standpoint."

Lewis W. Flinn, Wilmington, Grand High Priest.

Jas. H. Price, Wilmington, Grand Secretary.

District of Columbia.

Chapters, 11 ; members, 2,199.

Three special Convocations preceded the thirty-first annual, which was held at Washington, on the 8th December, 1898, the first to attend the funeral of Past Grand High Priest Robert Ball, the second to consider the erection of a Masonic Temple of a national character and where the General Grand Chapter and General Grand Encampment would find a home, and the third to constitute Capitol R. A. Chapter.

Musical effect contributed to the opening ceremonies of the annual Convocation, at which M.E. Comp. Chas. H. Smith presided. He prefaced his address with a few reminiscent paragraphs, tracing from the initial Convocation in 1867, a period of trouble, until the present year, when all is peace and harmony.

One of the questions put to him was, "What constitutes official information that a Companion has been dropped for non-payment of dues in his Blue Lodge ?"

He replied to the effect that, in the absence of any law or resolution either in the Grand Lodge or the Grand Chapter bearing on the question, a written communication from the secretary under the seal of the lodge from which the companion has been suspended, would constitute an official notification.

But who is to authorize the secretary to do this ? His duties are defined by constitution and by-laws, and such notification—dealing with a distinct body—is not

included in either. Moreover, the carrying out of such a provision would entail upon the lodge secretary the keeping of a record of membership in all the Chapters located within his cable-tow, and upon the Chapter scribe the necessity of notifying the lodge to which each newly-admitted companion belonged. To carry out a dependent membership enactment thoroughly, the duties of these officers must be amplified, and to legislate to that end, some difficult obstacles will have to be overcome.

Among his recommendations are, a return to the former rates, so as to increase the revenue; a semi-annual Convocation, and a committee to discuss the advisability of establishing a Masonic Home.

He visited all the Chapters and reported progress and harmony everywhere.

The invitation to the officers and members of General Grand Chapter, with their ladies, to visit Washington at the close of the session at Baltimore, was accepted by many of the companions from afar, who enjoyed the hospitality of the capital. The programme included a visit to

"The Capitol and Library Buildings; thence by carriages to the Executive Mansion, where each one was presented to and cordially greeted by our illustrious Companion, the President of the United States."

This jurisdiction is kindly disposed towards the brethren of the cloth, as witness the following clause of the Constitution amended,—

"SEC. 3. Each Chapter shall pay to the Grand Chapter, at every annual convocation, three dollars for the exaltation of every Companion subsequent to the last preceding annual convocation, and the sum of fifty cents as annual dues for every member on the roll of the chapter at the time of making the annual report to the Grand Chapter: *Provided*, That no Chapter shall be charged any initiation fee or annual dues for clergymen for whom no fee or dues shall have been charged by such Chapter."

One wonders whether it was the previous reduced rate of fees and dues, or a multitude of applications from clergymen, that occasioned the following:

"Attention being called to the small balance in the treasury,

which would be insufficient for the expenses of the Grand Chapter during the coming year, on motion, the Grand Treasurer was authorized to negotiate a loan of $300, the amount to be placed in the treasury and made available for the expenses of the Grand Chapter until the next Annual Convocation."

The "substitute" is not permitted in Washington, and this resolution has held since 1869.

Lafayette Chapter numbers among its honorary members, Comp. William J. Hughan, the well-known Masonic historian of England.

The Past Grand High Priest M.E. Comp. Chas. H. Smith, contributes to the volume a most interesting four-page "Historical Sketch of Royal Arch Masonry in the District of Columbia."

Comp. W. R. Singleton ably reviews the proceedings of 46 Grand convocations. To Companion Pillans, who argues in defence of the actual presence of the charter, he says,—

"Now, when a Lodge goes to a funeral, lays corner-stones, dedicates Masonic halls or performs any other public Masonic ceremonial, does the charter accompany the Great Lights, or does it remain in the hall?"

Canada for '97 receives due notice. Hear what he says of the Grand Z.

"Companion Ross Robertson is well known to our Companions here, and from the pen of so distinguished and zealous a Mason we might expect, in his address, much more than from an ordinary man. We confess that we were not disappointed."

Commenting on a remark of the G.H.P. of Maryland, Comp. Singleton says :

"We have always advocated the advancement of the Master Mason to the Chapter, and that, too, so soon as he had acquired a certain proficiency in the work of the Lodge, and not on credit of *time* service, irrespective of his proficiency. In regard to the Commandery degrees, while they are very interesting and instructive, they are not essential to the true knowledge of the Masonic mysteries. To complete that knowledge, a Mason should most certainly receive the Council degrees and become a 'Select Mason of the Twenty-seven.'"

We like this. It is drawn from him by Michigan's law which provides that "in case of non-payment of dues, charges must be preferred and trial had as for any other Masonic offence."

"Is it always a Masonic offense, this non-payment? A large majority of such cases are from *inability*. Now, where is our Masonic charity which brands the poor brother for his poverty as an offense? In our jurisdiction due notice is given of the indebtedness, and the Brother or Companion has ample time to make explanation as to his inability to pay, and if satisfactory, his dues are at once remitted. If he fail to give a reason he is merely dropped from the roll, and can reinstate *himself* within two years by paying what he owes, and without further process the Secretary restores his name. Herein *is* charity."

J. F. R. Appleby, Washington, Grand High Priest.
A. W. Johnston, Washington, Grand Secretary.

Florida.

Chapters, 16; members, 598.

It was an active year for Grand High Priest Warren Tyler and his officers, and his address presented to the fifty-second annual Convocation at Jacksonville on May 10, 1898, was an interesting one for the companions.

Feelingly he refers to the sudden demise of Past Grand King W. W. Tucker, and the losses sustained by the private Chapters.

The granting of dispensations to instal officers and ballot out of time occupied a goodly share of his attention, as did his official visits to the Chapters.

"I am decidedly of the opinion each Chapter should be visited at least once each year. It would place the subordinate Chapters in closer sympathy with the Grand Chapter, and impress upon us all a deeper interest in the common welfare of Capitular Masonry in our midst. It would give opportunity for advice and correction and stimulate that noble contention, or rather emulation of who best can work and best agree."

In the matter of ceremonial work he notes considerable progress, and says:

"This enables us to look forward with confidence to the near future when rituals in any form will be more conspicuous by their absence in many of our Chapters than at present. Beyond a certain point, rituals are a hindrance rather than a help, and too often the possession of one is a serious temptation to use it rather than exert ones self to memorize the work and be independent of the ritual."

Where, as with us, the memorizing is imperative, the appearance in the Chapter of "an aid" would be regarded with surprise.

His decisions contained little of interest. He recommended the adoption of a regulation making it the duty of each Chapter to maintain a "book of marks," and suggested the official adoption of the "Signet," a recently published manual of R. A. Masonry. He closes with some references to his visit to General Grand Chapter and pays due tribute to Baltimore's hospitality.

The Grand Secretary reported several delinquent Chapters and recommended that the dispensation to Columbia Chapter U. D. be continued. Fraternal greetings were sent to Connecticut, which was then celebrating its hundredth anniversary.

The Grand High Priest, on the matter of Grand Representatives quotes Colorado's ruler with evident satisfaction.

"I am making a change in our Grand Representatives for the reason that many do not attend our Grand Convocations, and if they do not take an interest in the Royal Craft they cannot have the honors, especially when we have so many good, capable and earnest workers on whom these honors should be bestowed for their zeal and constant attendance."

True, every word of it, and would again take the liberty of suggesting that the name of Florida's representative near the Grand Chapter of Canada should be changed.

On the 22nd August the worthy Grand Secretary, M. E. Comp. W. A. McLean, P.G.H.P., was summoned to his eternal rest, and the G.H.P. appointed Comp. Thos. G. Hutchinson to the vacancy.

Wilbur P. Webster, Jacksonville, Grand High Priest.

Thos. G. Hutchinson, Jacksonville, Grand Secretary.

Georgia.

Chapters, 108; members, 3,149.

A net increase of 5, and in members, 105. Such

was the showing made at the seventy-sixth Annual Convocation held in the City of Macon, April 27th, 1898, at which 76 Chapters reported.

M. E. Comp. Chas. Wessolowsky, G.H.P., delivered an exhaustive and eloquent address in which the Capitular field in Georgia is ably reviewed. His exordium is a beautiful introduction to the announcement of the deaths of two distinguished and much esteemed companions, Grand Scribe J. T. Colcord, and Past D. G. H. P. William Abram Love.

Only a few questions of local interest were submitted for decision and this he attributes to the "intelligence and harmony" prevailing in the jurisdiction.

He visited many Chapters and would have done more but for sickness at home. He resuscitated the Chapter at Eatonton where he "exalted seven teams." Three Chapters he constituted.

He again pays a well merited tribute to the Correspondence Chairman.

"With his high ability, with his zeal and ardour, and with his pen flowing from a fountain of knowledge, he guards the principles of Masonry and keeps the banner of Capitular Masonry steadily aloft. Through his able pen and with his light of reason, truth and wisdom, he dispels the mists that at times may arise and dim the clearness of our horizon, and by his logic and deep thought he removes the clouds of error and misunderstanding and gives to the world the increased splendor of his learning."

His conclusion is an answer to "the query so often propounded "What is Masonry," and at once establishes the G. H. P. as a Companion who thinks as well as works. His finale which, and we regret to say it, is all our space can allow, will illustrate that fact.

"Masonry speaks first to the mind with the sublime words, found in the beginning of the pages of our great light, "The Bible." "Let there be light" is the expression and the sublimest sentence in human language. It is the command for the mind, no blind faith, no submission to feigned authorities, but to God, the Father of us all, who revealed Himself to His children. We do not try to unravel the mysteries of creation but to know the Creator. We will not solve the eternal problem, and to the great question, "Who art thou?" as Masons, we have no other answer but, "I am what I am," and that my innate sense of duty teaches

me, Masonic precepts and lessons command me to obey the Lord who has created me and endowed me with these faculties and live up to that which has been given unto me. It also speaks to the heart, that love is enjoined on nearly every page of our great light, the Bible. It points out to us, that love is life's end, life's wealth, life's reward. It commands to love our God, and love our fellow man, to love the poor and needy, the stranger and the homeless, the widow and the orphan. No feast and no enjoyment, no pleasure and no blessing, but that they are remembered, who appeal to our hearts and affections. So speaks Masonry of to-day, and so taught Masonry of antiquity. It is in harmony with the mind, the conscience and the heart. It is in harmony with the progress of the age already made, with the progress yet to be achieved. We therefore proudly exclaim, "Yes, we are Masons, Chapter Masons, and adore the Lord of Light, Truth, Justice and Love. Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord," this is what Masonry bids us, what Masonry teaches, and what Masonry is."

The following resolution was offered.

"That the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of Georgia visit, in a body, the tomb of the lamented A. M. Wolihin, Grand Secretary, deceased, at 8.30 a.m., to-morrow, as a tribute of respect to his memory, and to inspect the splendid triumph of art erected by the committee from the Grand Lodge as a monument to his worth."

The Grievances and Appeals Committee had before them several cases of "Unmasonic conduct," the charge being "non-payment of dues." The Committee invariably added, "We recommend that the above named parties be expelled."

In the case of one who aggravates the above shocking offence by "telling lies, such as would bring discredit on the fraternity at large," the Committee recommend that the "Companion" be expelled.

It would appear by this that when a member, by reason of his inability to pay dues, descends to the level of a "party," he can again raise himself to the dignity of "Companion" by distorting the truth. Be that as it may, the penalty of expulsion for N. P. D. is so repellantly harsh to our view that we care not to discuss it, but we pause to express surprise that such a condition of affairs is permitted to exist in a jurisdiction that can listen to and endorse the holy and charitable sentiments

that emanate from such devoted companions as the Grand High Priest and the Grand Chaplain.

Comp. W. S. Ramsay, again furnishes a most interesting report on Correspondence, in which Canada for 1897, is included. That this careful and accomplished reviewer could make a mistake would never be suspected, nor would we now even hint at one but that justice to a companion whom he quotes, demands it. Referring to a clause in the Grand Z's address touching on the Correspondence report he says:

"The Grand Zerrubbabel chacterizes it as the best report submitted, and the best ever issued by a Grand Chapter. This is Companion Bennett's second report, and reflects credit upon its author and his Chapter, but we could hardly agree that 'it is the very best ever issued by a Grand Chapter.' We have read the reports of Parvin, Drummond, Pillans and many others, and of the Grand Zerubbabel himself, that we regard equally meritorious and readable. We fully appreciate the value of this report, and compliment rather than under-rate it, by comparison with these experienced and able correspondents"

What an amount of mischief may have been occasioned through the centuries that have passed, by the unwitting assumption of that little indefinite article. The words as they appear in Canada's printed proceedings are "ever issued by *the* Grand Chapter." A distinction with a great deal of difference. We disclaimed the soft impeachment at its birth and do so now, but Comp. Ramsay's hasty interpretation almost made us weep with a vexation which even his kind reception of us failed to subdue. Even he, will admit, that leaving the unfortunate reporter out of the question, it was scarcely flattering to the Grand Z.

"Wisely and slow;
They stumble that run fast."

Henry C. Burr, Griffin, Grand High Priest;

W. A. Wolihin, Macon, Grand Secretary.

Illinois.

Chapters, 186 ; members, 16,798.

An increase of 120 to the membership was reported at the forty-eighth annual Convocation held at Chicago, October 28, 1897. That Illinois is prospering is fairly indicated in the address of the M. E. Comp. F. C. Winslow, Grand High Priest.

"Before proceeding to the business of the hour let us look about us and see the beautiful bow of promise which spans the firmament. Our institution in common with all others whose interests are bound up in the welfare of our loved country, has passed through a period of gloom and depression. But now the clouds are lifting, we can see the sun shining, and its rays illuminate a glorious future."

Referring to official visitations and the labours of the Grand Lecturers, he says :

"Early in the year, in obedience to a resolution passed in the last session of this body, the Grand High Priest called the Grand Lecturers together for examination and consultation. That noble record of pioneer warfare so much esteemed by the Royal Craft of Illinois was carefully scrutinized. Under patient labor, obscurities were cleared away and minor details perfected, and I believe that a substantial gain toward ritualistic uniformity was achieved."

He recommended the issuance of a charter to Momence Chapter U. D., extolling the companions highly for their work.

Noting the absence of applications for rulings, he says :

"Organizations upon which simple constitutional requirements weigh heavily, and that demand for their peace of mind frequent technical decisions, where common sense and mutual forbearance should rule, are far from the spirit that should animate us. Where there is no quarrel there is no need for a decision."

He expressed emphatic opposition to the proposa looking to a reduction in the per capita tax and furnished some convincing figures in support.

"The reduction of Grand Chapter dues ten cents per capita means a loss to our treasury of sixteen hundred and sixty dollars

per annum. This loss will have to be met by a reduction in the mileage and per diem, or an abandonment of our donations which we have annually made to some Masonic charity. The first measure, though frequently introduced, has never met your approval. As to the second proposition, ten cents a year expended in charity by each Royal Arch Mason in Illinois is surely not an excessive burden. There is still another course open—reduce the per capita, plunge the Grand Chapter in debt, and finally resort to a special assessment to remedy the evil. Does this last proposition sound like a leaf from history not so ancient but that some here recall it?"

A brief report of the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of Peoria Chapter No. 7 is appended to the report of the Grand Secretary. The event attracted a large gathering, among whom was Comp. John Comstock, the only surviving companion of the twelve charter members. Comp. Newton C. Dougherty, in the course of an address,

"told of meeting the Prince of Wales at an art reception during his recent trip abroad. The prince, noticing the Masonic badge worn by the educator, grasped his hand warmly and spoke in highest terms of the little emblem, knowing full well its significance."

What an observant and affable gentleman Albert E. must be. Reception was accorded to M. E. Comp. Joseph E. Dyas, recently elected General Grand Scribe; M. E. Theodore S. Parvin, of Iowa, and Past Grand High Priest Alvin Haynie, and Grand Secretary Mayo, of Missouri.

The Grievances Committee congratulated Grand Chapter on the fact that no business had been presented for the consideration of its members.

It fell to Past Grand High Priest Loyal L. Munn to present a jewel to the outgoing Grand High Priest, and in the course of his touching address to that companion he relates an incident which must be regarded as a record breaker.

"Within two weeks from the time in which I had the honor and pleasure of conferring the third degree upon you, I invited you to the East and you conferred the first degree of Masonry so elegantly that Bro. M. D. Chamberlin, who was one of the Grand

Lecturers in this State for many years, said that he had never seen that degree conferred more impressively and completely than you had done."

The exhaustive and entertaining report on Correspondence, by Comp. Pearson, has been reviewed in advance and included in the previous year's proceedings.

Eugene L. Stoker, Evanston, Grand High Priest.

Gil. W. Barnard, Chicago, Grand Secretary.

Indian Territory.

Chapters, 25; members, 781.

Two of the twenty Chapters were tardy in sending their returns and their membership is not quoted, though they were duly represented at the eighth annual Convocation held at Purcell, on Nov. 3, 1897.

M. E. Companion Napoleon Bonaparte Maxey, Grand High Priest, as became the possessor of so great a name, greeted his companions in a spirited and masterly address. The time of meeting having been changed from August to November, the G. H. P. had fifteen months' of active service to report on.

"The general condition of Capitular Masonry within our jurisdiction is healthful and encouraging, and while the amount of work done may not come up to that of former years, yet what has been done has been done well, and only 'good work, true work and square work has been received.'"

He issued dispensations for new Chapters at Duncan, Wagoner and Krebs.

He visited four of his Chapters, was received by his mother jurisdiction Illinois, at Grand Chapter, in Oct., 1896, and represented his present one at General Grand Chapter at Baltimore, sensibly refraining from detailing the incidents of the "good time" spent there.

There were no grievances to bother him and little if anything in the way of decisions.

A companion who had lost his demit somewhere in the sixties and who, years later, could not get a duplicate because the records of his mother Chapter had been

destroyed by fire, petitioned Grand Chapter to be allowed to affiliate without that document.

The Jurisprudence Committee to whom the petition was referred, recommended that the request be acceded to.

The "Indian Mason" published at Chelsea, Ind. Ter., by Rev. J. H. Clawson, was adopted as the official organ of Grand Chapter.

Grievances and Appeals there were none, whereat Grand Chapter expressed its gratification.

Complaint was made that an Arkansas Chapter had been taking material which bore the mark of Indian Territory, and a resolution authorizing the G. H. P. to take action was adopted.

The report on Work and Returns is a document of much interest, and describes concisely how each Chapter secretary prepares and sends in his annual statement. It certainly should have the effect of keeping the scribes up to date. Here are a couple of specimens:

"Rush Springs, No. 16.—Neat as a new gold dollar. Straight as an arrow. Full names, in apple-pie order. Degrees 3. Dismissions 14. No insurance. Members 22. The first returns received, June 30th."

"Tyrian, No. 20.—Neat as a pin, but only one given name and one initial. Correct. This Chapter did the largest amount of work of any in the jurisdiction, viz., 51 Degrees. Membership more than doubled; last year 13; this year 27. No insurance. Received very late."

The report itself has something pertinent to say of these officers and their tardiness:

"Your Committee suspect that the duplicate copies of Returns which are required to be kept in the archives of each Chapter are not carefully preserved. The Secretary should make out one copy of the Returns as nearly perfect as possible, giving full names of members and these in strict alphabetical order, all blank spaces filled carefully, the last or synopsis page perfectly correct; file this away carefully, and then be governed by it in making out the one for the next year, taking time and pains to make it also accurate, and so on, each year. Thus we should soon have no trouble with these Returns. Upon these Returns hangs all the business of the Grand Chapter. Without them all would be chaos.

When they are imperfect or incorrect it confuses everything else. It would pay the Grand Lodge and the Grand Chapter to have a school once a year to teach Secretaries how to make out Returns promptly and correctly."

Past Grand High Priest Walrond had evidently expressed a disinclination to be decorated:

"The Grand Secretary addressed himself to Past Grand High Priest Walrond and informed him that contrary to his well-known peace-loving, peace-making disposition, he had placed the Grand Secretary in a position requiring disobedience either to the Grand Chapter's instructions or to his, Companion Walrond's, instructions; that the Grand Secretary regarded both as almost sacred, but that of the two horns of the dilemma he had chosen to obey the Grand Chapter, and therefore presented to Companion Walrond, to his complete surprise, a beautiful Past Grand High Priest's jewel. Companion Walrond accepted the jewel with real pleasure, but chided the Grand Secretary for his disobedience."

The Grand High Priest in his address had recommended the recognition of the Grand Chapter of Victoria, but no action thereon seems to have been taken.

Grand Secretary Murrow was to have had the assistance of a couple of the companions in preparing a report on Correspondence. "They both declined very kindly and unceremoniously," and he was compelled to 'go it alone,' with the result that a concise and interesting appendix is attached to the proceedings. Canada for 1897 is included in his review. On his belief that petitioners for a new charter should be demitted companions, we ventured the query, "How then if the petition for the new Chapter is rejected?" He rejoins,—

"We have never known a worthy new Chapter refused a Charter, Companion Bennett. If there is a good reason to refuse a Charter, the Grand Chapter can easily return the dimits to the Companions and let them affiliate with their old Chapter or some other. Far better this than dual membership which has bred confusion with us."

Indian Territory this year furnishes an illustration to support us. Twenty-seven Companions at Krebs petitioned for a dispensation. The nearest Chapter, that at McAlester, bowled them out, but having got permission to remove to South McAlester, recommended

the application at a subsequent meeting. Later, the conflicting elements came to the surface again and Grand Chapter, instead of granting a charter to the Krebs companions, continued the dispensation and appointed a committee to thresh out the dispute. If the report is unfavorable to the new Chapter, what becomes of the twenty-seven companions, that is, if they have demitted? Will the other Chapter take them in? We hope they will, but where feeling has run so high there is room for a suspicion that they may be left on the inhospitable outside.

1898.

South McAlester, Choctaw Nation, was honored with the ninth annual Convocation, September 13th, 1898, when Comp. George Henry Bruce, M. E. Grand High Priest, welcomed the companions in a brief but comprehensive address.

He authorized a new Chapter at Norman, O. T., and declined the request of Ponca City companions, O. T., as the consent of the nearest Chapter, Perry, was withheld.

The following extract will be found interesting:

"The Grand Lodge of Indian Territory is gathering funds and placing them in a bank for the purpose of building, some time in the future (we trust in the near future), a Home for the widows and orphan children of poor and worthy Masons of this Jurisdiction. Companions, ought not the Grand and subordinate Chapters of Indian and Oklahoma Territories take a part in this worthy object? I commend it to your favorable consideration."

One can entertain nothing but the most sincere hope that the Grand High Priest's charitable wish may be gratified, and that a well-sustained 'Home' of the kind he mentions may be a blessing in his jurisdiction, "in the near future." It is a bold venture, however, for the Masons of Indian Territory, in view of the fact that in several places where 'Homes' have been established, there is a constant struggle for existence. To erect a superstructure even of modest proportions on a basis of bright hope and enthusiasm, means never-ending worry

and anxiety, if not collapse. Even the touching melody, "What is home without a mortgage," would hardly apply in this case, as it is built to shelter somebody else. If the 'Home' is to be erected, let the foundations be broad and deep and of the material known as cold cash, or its equivalent; if that is not procurable, except in promises, then is offered Punch's advice to those about to marry—"Don't."

The Grand Treasurer was authorized by resolution to pay over to the custodians of the "Home" fund ten per cent. of the money in his hands, so that the project is nearer fruition by $164.30.

Grand Secretary Murrow, assisted by M. E. Comp. Maxey, furnishes the Correspondence report. Under Canada for 1898, he says:

"The address of M. E. Companion Walsh, Grand Z., is a fine business paper and shows the work of a zealous Craftsman. It covers twenty pages of the proceedings and is replete with interesting detail of the business of the year, and shows that he has the best interest of the Craft at heart. He visited during the year fifteen Chapters and he gives a detailed report of his visit to each. Most of the Chapters visited were what are termed in this Jurisdiction 'Retrograding Chapters.' We hope and believe that the visits of Companion Walsh will have the effect of putting these Chapters in the progressive list at their next Convocation."

Philip C. Rosenbaum, Guthrie, Grand High Priest.
J. S. Murrow, Atoka, Grand Secretary.

Iowa.

Chapters, 122; members, 7,482.

The forty-fifth annual Convocation was held at Burlington, 25th August, 1898. The officers and members were escorted from their hotel by the knights of St. Omer Commandery, and the mayor of the city "in a few well chosen words" welcomed the Grand Chapter on behalf of the citizens. This kindly assault was met by Past Grand High Priest Dewey, who with a mien as calm and fearless as his illustrious namesake, replied to the greeting "in a felicitous manner."

Grand High Priest Irvine reported continued prosperity.

"At the present time there are one hundred and twenty chartered Chapters and two working under dispensation, with a total membership of more than seven thousand five hundred. It is a pleasure to be able to state that the Grand Secretary again reports that every one of the one hundred and twenty Chapters has made its annual returns, which is indicative of the zeal and enthusiasm that is to be found in all parts of our state."

A companion of Marion Chapter wrote him complaining that indefinite charges were preferred against him in his Chapter, and that the action was only done to injure him. He forwarded a copy of the charges and his reply thereto. The G. H. P. ordered a stay of proceedings and would not permit the Chapter to withdraw the charges, as it, through its H. P., desired to do; stating that the matter was now the property of Grand Chapter. The committee to whom it was referred, upheld the G. H. P. and recommended the dismissal of the charges on the ground that nothing specific was included in them.

R. E. Comp. C. W. Postlethwaite, Toronto, is included in the list of Representatives of Iowa appointed by him.

He granted a dispensation for new Chapters at Estherville and Sioux Rapids, and declined an application from companions at Rockwell City.

A bequest that may entail some trouble is a feature of the address. Mrs. Amanda Parish, relict of the late Grand Secretary, left to Grand Chapter by her will, $3,000, the interest of which to be devoted to charity.

"The intention of the deceased is very evident, but, unfortunately, instead of directing the money to be paid over to the Trustees of the Grand Chapter Charity Fund, she named "The Trustees of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of Iowa." As there is no such body in existence, I would recommend that such action be taken as will enable this Grand Chapter to legally obtain possession of the funds at such time as they may be forthcoming. I learn that claims have been filed against the estate which will undoubtedly result in prolonged litigation."

Bequests are not always blessings.

After a period of three years inactivity the Chapter

at Shenandoah gave up the ghost in July, and the Grand Secretary removed the charter and paraphernalia. Probably the name "Sheshbazzar" was too heavy a load to carry. R. I. P.

The Chapters were asked their opinion as to the question of separating the Cryptic degrees from the Chapter. All, except eight, sent in replies. 34 voted for separation and 78 against. The G.H.P. says:

"I submit this statement of the result to you without comment, any more than to say that it looks as though the farce-comedy which might with propriety be styled "The Cryptic Degrees, or How to Get Something for Nothing," will still continue to be played throughout the jurisdiction with such a ludicrous effect as to be almost enough to provoke a smile from an Egyptian mummy."

The Committee later on endorsed the view of the G.H.P.

"General Grand Chapter claims no jurisdiction over the Cryptic degrees, and Iowa, thereto in every respect, assumes the right to legally confer said degrees. This is all wrong, and your committee is heartily in accord with the recommendation of the Most Excellent Grand High Priest that this jurisdiction again divorce the Council degrees, and restore them to the condition they were in previous to the consolidation in 1878.

An amendment favoring repeal was subsequently adopted, March 1st, 1889, being the date fixed for effecting the divorce. Why not March 4th?

Comp. Ercanbrack opens his review of Canada in a happy vein.

"This crimson-colored volume contains two hundred and seventy pages. Not a single Canadian face is to be found. Why does not the Grand Chapter of Canada give a kodak view of its worthy and honored Companions? Canadians are generally hearty and handsome, and need not fear comparison with Yankees."

He quotes freely from M. E. Comp. Walsh's address and cordially supports his idea of a Canadian General Grand Chapter. Of the Canadian system of inspection he says:

"If the Chapters of Canada are not in good working order it

can not be for the lack of supervision. The seventeen Grand Superintendents make particular, detailed, and exhaustive statements of the condition of each and every Chapter, doubtless to the permanent benefit of all of them. Nevertheless we painfully observe that Masonic enthusiasm does not prevail in all parts of the Dominion, and one of the weak places is in the neighborhood of Niagara Falls. We trust that proximity to the Great Republic will eventually prove a stimulator."

He reproduces part of our introduction and says:

"Companion George J. Bennett is a master reviewer. Nothing escapes him.

"In his report of one hundred and thirty-five pages Iowa receives all merited attention. But we confess that the reading of the following passage does not inspire enthusiasm:"

He then quotes our comments on the presence of ladies at a Chapter installation.

"What is it, Companion Bennett, high latitude or heredity that makes your speech so chilly? Why, bless you, the "fair ones" are occupying Masonic lodge rooms in all parts of the American Republic, and seem as much at home as though Eve and all her daughters had always kept house therein. They spread our banquets, witness our installations, sing for us on all ceremonial occasions, and we do solemnly affirm that they not only "do no harm," but they positively "do us good." Listen to the daily eulogy of every true-hearted Royal Arch husband in Iowa:

> "Loveliest of women! Heaven is in thy soul:
> Beauty and virtue shine forever 'round thee,
> Brightening each other. Thou art all divine!"

W. Fiske Cleveland, Harlan, Grand High Priest.
Alf Wingate, Des Moines, Grand Secretary.

Kansas.

Chapters 82; members, 5,073.

Notwithstanding a slight falling away in membership as compared with the previous year, Kansas enjoys the prospect of a progressive future. There was a gratifying attendance at the annual Convocation at Wichita, on Feb. 14, 1898, which was greeted by Grand High Priest Chas. E. Monell, in a concise address which told of his year's record.

He visited the centennial of the General Grand at Baltimore, but was unable to attend similar celebrations in Connecticut, Michigan and New York. He made a number of visits to subordinate Chapters, one of which he found in such a backward condition that he recommended the arrest of the charter.

"The annual returns of the Subordinate Chapters show a falling off in membership—the deadly non-payment of dues largely to blame. Am afraid that the Secretary is frequently responsible. I would suggest that the Secretaries be urged to make special efforts in collecting, and further, that the Chapters make rebates, concessions to those who are behind with their payments ; better for the Chapters to take part pay than to lose all ; better for the Craft to have delinquents kept in line and those suspended restored to full membership."

The Grand Lecturer's report probably affords another insight touching the temporary lack of interest.

"The conclusions of my experience are as follows :

1. There is very great need of a ritual that may be interpreted and understood by the average Royal Arch Mason. The Hindoo Theology is unused.
2. A systematic visitation of all the Chapters of this jurisdiction, either by the Grand High Priest or Grand Lecturer, will accomplish good results.
3. We need greater uniformity in the methods and machinery or mechanisms of the different degrees, and hence I believe we need a new Monitor."

A case of invasion of territory occupied the attention of the Grievances Committee. An applicant who resided within the jurisdiction Kingman Chapter, petitioned Wichita Chapter for the degrees. The latter received it and applied to the former for waiver of jurisdiction. The minutes of Kingman Chapter show that the request was granted provided the other Chapter divided the fees. The applicant was admitted, but its share of the fees not forthcoming, Kingman Chapter asked the G. H. P.'s decision. He ruled that the complaining Chapter having lost jurisdiction over the petitioner who had changed his residence in the interval between making the application and receiving the degrees, it had no claim on Wichita Chapter for the fee or any part of

it. From this decision Kingman Chapter appealed, and the Committee thus found and the finding will no doubt be regarded as unique.

"Your Committee are of the opinion that Wichita Chapter, in entertaining the petition of Bro. Dyer, on January 11th, 1895, and in electing him on March 8th, 1895, to receive the degrees, acted without authority of law. The petition should not have been received unaccompanied by a waiver of jurisdiction, nor could the Chapter rightfully elect a candidate over whom it had no jurisdiction.

As Dyer had never petitioned Kingman Chapter for the degrees, it could not waive its territorial jurisdiction over him ; but had the fact and law been otherwise, its action in this matter was nugatory, as its assent was conditioned upon its receiving one-half of the fees for the degrees.

Your Committee are of the further opinion that Kingman Chapter has no personal grounds upon which to base its appeal, nor should Wichita Chapter profit by its wrong-doing. It is believed that the fees received by it from this petition should be devoted to charitable uses ; and it is therefore recommended that Wichita Chapter pay the amount thereof into the treasury of the Kansas Masonic Home."

An application for recognition from the Grand R A. Chapter of Victoria, was laid over for further information.

The Correspondence report from the pen of Comp. Jacob DeWitt is a very entertaining one. He quotes freely from Canada for '96, and says :—

"One page is devoted to "The Defunct Past Master. Needless to say the Grand Z. : felicitates the Grand Chapter "upon having erased from our system as superfluous" the work of this degree, and we may remark *en passant*, the chairman of the Committee on Correspondence loses no opportunity to jubilate on the same topic."

And of our own report remarks :—

The report is signed by the able chairman of Committee on Correspondence, Comp. George J. Bennett. Forty-seven Grand Jurisdictions pass in review before the able chairman. He takes occasion in opening to make a few remarks against the Past Master's degree ; he seems to hate it superlatively, and while we are not now championing it, we may be permitted to say here that the manner of his criticisms might be improved.

He is evidently kindly disposed towards the poor P. M., and resents our expressed satisfaction at Canada's removal of it from the system. But he goes a long way to illustrate his opinion of that satisfaction. We found it necessary to reply now and again to criticism of Canada's action that in some cases was none too charitable and occasionally conveyed a threat. Our explanations should have been viewed in connection with the remarks which elicited them, and then we fancy our good companion would have discovered reason for what he characterizes as "jubilation" and "superlative hate."

> "In every work regard the writers's end,
> Since none can compass more than they intend;
> And if the means be just, the conduct true,
> Applause, in spite of trivial faults, is due."

He closes his review of us with the following:—

"We had marked many more passages for excerpt, but must pass them. We note, however, that Comp. Bennett is unequivocally opposed to a public installation. We believe that ceremony in Canada differs somewhat from ours, but with our form, there is nothing that the whole world might not see and hear.

He also takes exception to ladies of the Eastern Star coming in during the hour of refreshment; we do not imagine for a moment that he thinks any Capitular business was transacted during those hours; we hope he is not a *woman hater*. While we do not belong to that Order, we have a great respect for that institution."

We have said our say on public installations, and repeat we are uncompromisingly opposed to them under any circumstances, but to be suspected of being a woman-hater is "the unkindest cut of all." Now, let us be understood. In woman's sphere nothing is more lovely than woman. Away from it she assumes another and less attractive form. No Eastern Star can shine with the same pure lustre as the light whose sweet refulgence fills the home with true happiness and is content to shine there. Heaven forbid that we should be accused of saying one word against the ladies, God bless them, but we must be pardoned for holding to the opinion that in the pages of their destiny it was never

intended that they should be recorded as the sharers in mystery and the possessors of secrets.

This is not "jubilation" companion, neither is it "superlative hate," but it is what our confrere of California would describe as "a direct way of saying things."

> "Nothing lovelier can be found
> In woman, than to study household good."

Aaron H. Connett, Great Bend, Grand High Priest.
Jacob DeWitt, Salina, Grand Secretary.

Kentucky.

Chapters, 69 ; members, 3,001.

Last year 75 Chapters were reported on the roll, but a very sensible lopping off of dead branches has reduced the number. This did not affect the growth in membership, which shows an increase. M. E. Comp. Henry Ranshaw, G.H.P., at the annual Convocation held in Louisville on the 19th October, 1897, stated that the Royal Craft in Kentucky was in a flourishing condition. He urged system and punctuality on the part of subordinate Chapters with their membership.

> "If Subordinate Chapters will collect all dues owing to it by its members, it will never get behind with the Grand Chapter or have its charter arrested for failure to do its part in supporting and maintaining the Grand Chapter."

The Grand High Priest was unable to devote much time to visiting the constituent Chapters. He certainly made up for any shortcomings when he came to prepare his address. It embraces sixteen pages of the proceedings and covers everything "from Alpha to Omaha."

He issued, as authorized by Constitution, nineteen dispensations to ballot out of time, and then gives nearly a page of thoughtful reasoning why this should not be done.

The revised Book of Constitution having been authorized, he conferred with the compiler and made the valuable suggestion that it might also be inexpensively

made the portrait gallery of the Past Grand High Priests, intimating that the volume would thus be embellished 'and possibly tend to its preservation by the recipient." Possibly.

He granted a dispensation for a new Chapter at Barboursville, Knox Co.

He had the pleasure of officially visiting his own Chapter, but it does not appear that any other of the 68 was thus honored.

The return of the prodigal, Rhode Island's readherance to General Grand Chapter, is dealt with to the extent of a page.

With an equal degree of generosity he deals with the 'State of the Order," to many, an expression distasteful, 'but "Order" seems to have a tenacious grip. He treats at length with the matter of collection of dues.

The exemplification of the R. A. degree, which he had hoped to announce, had to be abandoned owing to the inability of those in charge to secure a suitable hall, an omission that drew from the G. H. P. some severe criticism. Expressions of gratitude to those who worked so unselfishly in behalf of "Our Home" fittingly preceded his graceful conclusion.

The appeal for assistance from a destitute octogenarian companion who was then 54 years a R. A. Mason was generously met with a donation of $50.

Grand Chapter closed with a

Balance on hand	$2678 73
14 Shares, Farmers' Bank, Kentucky	1400 00
40 " Masonic Savings Bank—no value	.....

Comp. Staton is, as of yore, the versatile and painstaking Correspondent. He devotes a couple of pages to Canada for '96 and is eulogistic of the Grand Z.

"A model of neatness and common sense—one of the best addresses we have ever seen delivered to a Masonic body. There is no subject which relates to the Royal Craft in Canada that is not discussed."

He is generous with the reporter and states that we did not interpret him aright in the matter of his criticism of Canada's conferring past rank, and to do him full justice we quote his reply:

"Comp. Bennett has entirely misapprehended our meaning when we said that in this country not much stress prevails on such rank. In this country we do not now recollect that any jurisdiction in any Grand Body confers past rank on any individual, no matter how meritorious and zealous they may have been in the cause of Masonry, and that was what we meant that not much stress prevailed on such things. Oh no, we do not deny that our people are fond enough of past rank, but then they only want it where they have filled the offices which entitle them to such rank. No man in this country is dubbed a Past Grand Master or Past Grand Warden or a Past Grand High Priest, or Past Grand Commander unless he has filled the Chair to entitle him to such. That is what we meant, "only that and nothing more."

If our good Companion had perused us on this subject under Texas it is just possible that he would have admitted that there was some reason for the procedure, unusual as it undoubtedly was.

To our remarks on Kentucky's pay-roll system he rejoins as follows, and the explanation will, we opine, be interesting reading to Companions who have never enjoyed the luxury:

"We do not care to discuss the subject of the "pay-roll." Kentucky has tried it both ways in Grand Lodge and Grand Chapter, and we find that to tax the Lodges and Chapters sufficient to pay the mileage and per diem provided in the Constitution, produces the largest representation. If the mileage and per diem system was abolished, the Chapters would very soon reduce the dues paid to Grand Chapter. The Chapters will never consent to be taxed that a treasury of 'plethoric proportions' may be built up. We believe that six cents per mile one way, and $2.50 per diem, is sufficient for the delegates, especially as they get reduced rates on the railroads, and at the hotels of Louisville, but a proposition of that kind would be voted down overwhelmingly."

Fancy the Chapters reducing the dues paid to Grand Chapter; the tail wagging the dog, eh? Well, it goes in Kentucky, so it must be right—there. Comp. Staton's temerity is amazing, especially when retorting to an incomparable veteran like him of Maine. The lat-

ter had something condemnatory of the printed ritual, and this is what it elicited :

"It occurs to us that some people's consoiences become remarkably tender on the subject of written or printed rituals, when the founder of our Blue Lodge and Chapter rituals used them, and transmitted them to his early pupils. The 'mouth to ear' theory is very beautiful, but in stubborn reality it is a humbug."

A bright, pleasant, entertaining review throughout, and we trust it will be many years before he tires of the genial labour. Comp. Staton has our sincere sympathy in his recent sad bereavement.

James W. Hopper, Louisville, Grand High Priest.

Henry B. Grant, Louisville, Grand Secretary.

Louisiana.

Chapters, 19 ; members, 1,090.

In the Masonic Hall, New Orleans, at noon on the 15th February, 1898, the fifty-first annual Convocation was called to order. Eighteen out of the nineteen Chapters on the roll were represented. The Grand High Priest M. E. Comp. R. H. Cage congratulates the Companions on the condition of Capitular Craft "both numerically and financially."

The question of members of a new Chapter being held on the rolls of the Chapters they formerly hailed from drew the following from the G.H.P.

"I would respectfully call the attention of this Grand Chapter to the fact that this question of dual membership, like Banquo's ghost "will not down" until a quietus is placed upon it by a resolution of this Grand Chapter requiring members organizing a new Chapter to pay dues to their Chapters and take a demit, thus avoiding any future complications."

The following is in the nature of a puzzle,—Comp. W. B. Fox, if in the flesh, has been highly honored, but the G.H.P. who recommended him is a Companion whose acquaintance we would like to make. Among the Commissions as Grand Representative issued by Louisiana's ruler is included.

"On April 8th, 1897, Victoria, British Columbia, Companion W. B. Fox.

It is just possible that an error was made by the G.H.P. in misplacing Louisiana's representative in Victoria, Australia.

The death of Past Grand High Priest J. Q. A. Fellows is feelingly alluded to. "His life work is his highest eulogy." Comp. Fellows was a Past Grand Commander of the General Grand Encampment Knights Templars of the United States.

"He was the only American member of the 'Order of the Grand Cross of the Temple,' instituted by the Prince of Wales in commemoration of the organization of the Convent General of Knights Templar in England and the Colonies."

An eighteen page report on Correspondence is furnished by Companion Rev. Herman C. Duncan, and brief as it is, it embraces a great deal. That great deal however does not include Canada although the genial reviewer is careful to acknowledge the receipt of our proceeding for 1896.

He is an advocate of dependent membership. Under District of Columbia he says :

"There is the same reason to require that an applicant for affiliation should be in good standing and a member of a Lodge, as there is for the insistance for those qualifications in an applicant for degrees. The Lodge is strength. The beauty of the Chapter and the wisdom of the Council are useless without the strength of the Lodge. A Masonic principle is involved. It is not a question of choice between two meritorious clubs."

Concluding he says :

"We have been rather surprised to find but little for adverse criticism—far, far less than usual. It appears that the number of decisions is evidently decreasing—a most helpful sign. We find also that nearly all Committees on Grievances had nothing to report ; another most encouraging sign. Nearly all the jurisdictions report at least one new Chapter. Everywhere, therefore, we find reasons for mutual congratulations."

George W. Bolton, Pineville, Grand High Priest.
Richard Lambert, New Orleans, Grand Secretary.

Maine.

Chapters, 55; members, 6,205.

M. E. Comp. Henry S. Webster presided over the seventy-second annual Convocation held in Portland on May 4, 1897. Fifty-one Chapters were represented. The Grand High Priest, on the condition of the jurisdiction had this to say:

"It is evident that the year's record will show a gratifying increase in exaltations and membership. I learn, also, that the standard of work is high, and that the principles and precepts of our beloved Order are well taught, no less than well practiced."

"As to the general condition of the craft, I am not aware of the existence of any bickering, jealousy, or unfriendly feeling between the constituent bodies of this Grand Chapter; and I mention with pride the fact that it is many years since we have been called upon to act as judges or even as mediators in the settlement of disputes or conflicting claims. May this happy condition long continue."

In the granting of a dispensation for a new Chapter to Companions at Pittsfield, he acted in conflict with a resolution of Grand Chapter at its previous Convocation. His action, however, was amply justified by an elaborate explanation, and the wisdom of his course was subsequently endorsed by the Grand Chapter.

Among the questions submitted to him for decision was the following:

"3. Bro. ————, a member of ———— Lodge in good standing, is desirous of taking the chapter degrees; the question arises whether he is eligible or not, on account of his having lost his right hand, *although he has an artificial hand*. Will you kindly inform us as soon as convenient?"

This was evidently a poser, for he decided to submit it to Grand Chapter. It proved too much for the Jurisprudence Committee also, which asked that it be "referred to the incoming Committee for report at the next annual Convocation."

He announced the consolidation of King Solomon's and Temple Chapters at Rockland.

The reports of the visiting officers exhibit a close attention to duty on their part and indicate that the Chapters generally are progressive.

M. E. Comp. Drummond in opening his report on Correspondence, says:

"We note that the arrangement of the business of many Grand Chapters has improved, by the appointment of committees at the previous convocation, so that their reports, in nearly all cases, are ready when the Grand Chapter is opened, and the length of the session reduced. Many, which formerly held sessions of two or three days in length, now are able to transact their business in one day."

This has been Canada's practice, and we have always found it to work in the direction indicated. True, there have been a few to object occasionally to what they term the "cut and dried" arrangement, but the saving of time as well as of useless discussion by the adoption of this system has been appreciated, even by them, in the end.

Under Canada he deals with Grand Z. Robertson's address at length:

"He discusses forcibly the non-payment of dues, but suggests no remedy save active work on the part of the officer whose duty it is to collect them. We have long believed that if a system can be devised that will enable a Masonic body to pay an officer for calling personally upon the members for their dues, as they become due, a large per centage of our losses would be saved; by this means too, the question of ability to pay can be more satisfactorily determined."

He reproduces Comp. Robertson on the P.M. degree in full. We have said our say on that topic and have nothing to take back, but we gladly give Comp. Drummond's remarks:

"In the first place, as we understand the history of the Royal Arch degree, it was conferred, *when established as a separate degree*, only upon Past Masters. Be that as it may, the system of four degrees was established before the organization of the General Grand Chapter, and that Body was formed in 1798 by chapters which then were, and previously had been, practicing the system of four degrees precisely as now practiced; and the General Grand

Chapter did not legislate it into the system." Moreover, in Pennsylvania, while the Grand Chapter has never taken jurisdiction over this degree, the Royal Arch degree can be conferred only on Past Masters. In fact the system now practiced in Canada is an innovation dating from the time when the Grand Lodge of England allowed the R. A. degree to be separated from the Master's degree. Nor do we believe that there is any material amount of sentiment in the United States in favor of eliminating it from the system ; all the Grand Chapters, not constituents of the General Grand Chapter, retain it ; and that Body is made up of representative men from the Grand Chapters, and every attempt to eliminate it has been overwhelmingly defeated by those men ; this shows that the sentiment in that direction is small. We regard this movement in Canada as a step backwards, because it takes the Grand Chapter out of accord with the other American Grand Chapters and the older system adopted by them, and that, too, without following fully the more recent system adopted in England, and thus placing this Grand Chapter in harmony with neither."

It is just possible that our Masonic education has been neglected in regard to the system adopted in England although exalted under that jurisdiction. Will Comp. Drummond kindly enlighten us.

The Committee's methods in dealing with the reports from the districts are not such as command admiration from Comp. Drummond. He himself is delightfully frank in his criticisms, but frankness in others goes by some other name. He seems to overlook the fact that the Committee is not appointed for the purpose of encouraging officers in their arduous duties, but rather to give the Grand Chapter as nearly as possible a true picture of the actual condition of the Capitular craft. If these officers fail to furnish the information asked for, how is that to be done? It matters not to the Committee if they give detailed accounts of the festivities enjoyed all over the jurisdiction so long as the statistics concerning the working and condition of the Chapters are not omitted. Praise and encouragement are not withheld when they are merited, neither are those forgotten who solemnly pledged themselves to certain duties which they neglected. Moreover, if Companion Drummond had compared the Committee's report, as he might have done, with those it reviewed,

he would not have done it a rank injustice by implying that officers were discouraged because they failed to make a model report. Such an assumption is unworthy of Comp. Drummond, but it is all too apparent that "sharp criticism and severe censure" can emanate from other sources than the committee which he holds up for correction.

"But spite of all the criticizing elves,
Those who would make us feel—must feel themselves."

Comp. Drummond, quoting some remarks of ours in reference to the degree eliminated by Canada, says:

"He seems to think that the General Grand Chapter is responsible for the existence of the Past Master's degree."

What we said was, that the General Grand Chapter having provided in its regulations for the degree, the "Grand" Chapters owning allegiance to it could not, even if they were inclined, expunge it without imperilling the relations that made them part of the federation.

"If we can judge correctly from this and other similar statements, our Companion's Masonic education is wofully defective in one respect, viz.: that he has not yet learned that the body of Masonic law is the embodiment of 'the ancient usages of the craft.' His sneers cannot change the fact. The results of human experience will still stand against the opinion of any man."

Well, having conned the views of Comp. Drummond with respect to other jurisdictions, we have arrived at the conclusion that defective education in matters Masonic is epidemic and that we are only one of a goodly company. We did think that so far as "ancient usages and established customs" went we enjoyed a fairly comprehensive idea of what they ought to be, but observing Comp. Drummond's comments to ourselves as well as to others, we admit that we were, to use a vulgarism, "not in it."

"He does not believe in the doctrine of dependent membership, it being foreign to the spirit of the craft, and he might have

made his position much stronger by adding 'and contrary to the ancient usages of the craft.'"

Precisely, and it is on that ground we have stood for years, although in this jurisdiction there are many thinking companions who are inclined to the methods adopted by other Grand Chapters.

Our reply to Quebec regarding the nomenclature of the Grand Chapter, he quotes in full and says:

"We concur in these views: while the situation is not an agreeable one, we think that our Quebec friends have no right to claim that the Grand Bodies in Canada, which took their names rightly and properly when they were organized, must change them either in consequence of legislation, or the subsequent formation of bodies in the same original territorial jurisdiction."

Concluding he says, referring to his annual table of statistics:

"The result of the year's work is much more favorable than we dared expect a year ago. It was feared that there would be a falling off in the work done and probably a decrease in the total membership. But while there has been a falling off in some Grand Jurisdictions, there has been an increase in others, sufficient to increase the total by over 10,000, or more than five per cent.: the decrease in exaltations has been but little over one per cent.: and while suspensions and dismissions have increased and restorations and admissions slightly decreased, the loss by these exceeds that of the previous year by only a little over 1,000. Upon the whole, we have abundant reason for congratulation."

1898.

By the consolidation of King Solomon's and Temple Chapters, the total number of charters was brought to 55. Oxford and Bethel Chapters also applied to be amalgamated. In addition dispensations were granted for two Chapters at Searsport and Deer Isle.

This Grand Chapter reports a net increase of 181 for the year. The seventy-third annual Convocation was opened in the Masonic Hall, Portland, on Tuesday evening, May 3rd, 1898. M. E. Comp. Albro E. Chase, Grand High Priest, presiding. His address indicates a continuance of harmony.

He constituted the Chapters at Rumford and Pittsfield. The ceremony in each case being "open to the public." Alas for ancient usage.

The application of a Master Mason, with an artificial right hand, for the Chapter degrees was submitted to the G.H.P. of the previous year for decision and he discreetly turned it over to Grand Chapter. The Committee held it over for a year and in the meantime it was submited a second time to the G.H.P.

"I made no answer to the question until after the Convocation of the General Grand Chapter in October, since at that convention it was known that a committee who had the subject of physical disabilities under consideration would report; and this committee did report, but in such a manner as not to disturb the state of things as it existed in this Grand Jurisdiction.

Therefore, in accordance with the decisions heretofore given in Capitular Masonry, I replied that the brother was not eligible for the Chapter degrees."

The Committee on Jurisprudence endorsed the above and now physical perfection theorists will have something fresh in the way of a whetstone.

He recommended the appointment of R. E. Comp. Winfield S. Hinckley, Deputy Grand High Priest, as the Representative of Canada, near the Grand Chapter of Maine.

The reports of the visiting officers indicate a general condition of good in the Chapters.

M. E. Comp. Drummond's exhaustive report on Correspondence is embraced in 142 pages. He opens his review of Canada with an expression of regret that the scribe in his economy should reduce the Christian appellation of the Grand Z. to a miserable initial, and his search after the full name apparently proved abortive. It would be cruel indeed after so industrious a quest that such eager appetite for information should remain unappeased. Hast not heard, O sage one, of him of the fiery sword, the Archangel whose name signifies "Like unto God?" and when thou art further informed that he whom we delighted to honour on this mundane sphere is, like thyself, learned in the law, thou

wilt appreciate the modesty which reduces the significant "Michael" to an humble and retiring M.

"And lo! Ben Adhem's name led all the rest."

With a perspicacity such as Comp. Drummond possesses, it is remarkable that he failed to discover what that M. concealed. He observes that its owner "undertook to arrange for the two Chapters in British Columbia to cast their lot with the Canadian Chapters; but the Chapters concluded to remain as they are for the present," and sapiently adds, "Apparently their idea is to form a new Grand Chapter."

"'Tis with our judgments as our watches; none
Go just alike, yet each believes his own."

What we do not know in Canada we will learn ——— elsewhere.

Adverting to Grand Chapter's grant of $2,000 to the Hospital for Sick Children he pertinently remarks, and we would ask our companions to note the opinion of one who has been keenly observant of such enterprises for many years.

"As matters are in Ontario, we believe this action to be much wiser than for the Craft to undertake to erect and maintain a Masonic Home."

He comments at length upon our contention that by reason of the American introduction of the Past Master's and Most Excellent degrees as legal prerequisites to the Royal Arch, an injustice is done to companions hailing from jurisdictions older than the United States, where those degrees are unknown, and by some unexplainable means makes it appear that it was the Royal Arch degree we had in mind when referring to the production of a Bostonian, instead of the Past Master which has been credited by Masonic writers to Thomas Smith Webb of that ilk. The fraternal insinuation of lack of knowledge is of course inevitable.

"He must revise his dialogue and have the older companion inform the newly created one that he is not a regular Roya

Arch Mason, and explain to him that from the very first organization of the degree, as *a degree*, it could be conferred only upon Past Masters.

[He refers in another place to this degree as the production of a Bostonian. We are greatly surprised at this, for it calls for a decided re-reading, by our esteemed Companion, of Masonic history. For it never was the production of a Bostonian, and it was conferred in all the American Chapters long before the Companion to whom he alludes was even made a Mason.]

And such has been the law of regular Royal Arch Masonry ever since ; but in England, when the two Grand Lodges united in 1813, they allowed a certain part of the lodge ceremonies as theretofore given, to be separated into a different degree, known as the Royal Arch Degree, and, without reference to Royal Arch Masonry as it was established everywhere else, authorized the conferring of it upon Master Masons. The rest of the world has not gone to the small fraction of Royal Arch Masons represented by the organization which grew up in consequence of this action of the Grand Lodges. So that the young member, if he desires to be a regular Royal Arch Mason, must take the two degrees to which we have referred.

The General Grand Chapter of the United States, however, has gone a long way towards securing uniformity by allowing any Chapter to confer these degrees, without charge, and as a matter of course, upon anyone who has taken the Royal Arch degree under the Grand Chapter of England."

And on the same subject he concludes with this eminently Drummondian finale.

"It would seem from this that he is not acquainted with the ritual of Royal Arch Masonry in the United States. If he will become so, he will see that no American Royal Arch Mason can recognize one who has not received those two degrees as regular, but only as one, who, by receiving those degrees, can become regular ; the suggestion that because the Grand Chapter of England has taken the course which it has all the rest of the world should change its ritual and the old laws of Royal Arch Masonry to conform, seems to us like wanting 'the tail to waggle the dog.'"

In view of the incontrovertible fact that Masonry including the Royal Arch, like everything else good, was introduced from Britain, it is not very difficult to discern at which side of the Atlantic the "tail" of the animal lies. We would like to linger with Comp. Drummond but are reluctantly compelled to "move on."

Albro. E. Chase, Portland, Grand High Priest.
Steven Berry, Portland, Grand Secretary.

Maryland.

Chapters, 19 ; members, 1861.

The handsome volume issued by Maryland at the close of 1897, records the proceedings of the centennial anniversary on June 24th. Special Convocations in September and October, and the annual Convocation held on November 9th and 10th.

The celebration in June was a notable affair and worthy of so eventful an occasion. An elaborate programme had been prepared and it was faithfully carried out. Many distinguished visitors, including the General Grand High Priest, were present, and were cordially greeted by M. E. Comp. W. H. Shryock, G.H.P.

Appropriate odes "The Century Passed" and "The Century to Come," from the pen of Comp. Jas. R. Brewer were recited. Here is a verse from the latter:

A century of Masonry, when over all the world
The Banner of our Order shall proudly be unfurled ;
When the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of man
Shall touch each heart and purge each creed and consecrate each land.
When more than brothers all shall be, Companions in one path,
And Chapter Masonry shall be the universal faith ;
The Royal Arch join age to age, and state to state shall span,
And hemisphere with hemisphere shall grip the loving hand.

Past Grand High Priest Schultz's paper on "Royal Arch Masonry in Maryland" was, as might be expected from that companion, a most interesting recital. Of the origin of the Royal Arch degree he has this to say in his introduction:

"From the fact that the Royal Arch degree was made a prominent feature in the system of the so-called Athol or Grand Lodge, Ancients, it was the current belief until recent years that the degree was fabricated by that body ; but from the investigations of Brother Wm. J. Hughan, the learned English Masonic historian, it is quite certain that a degree known as the Royal Arch is mentioned at least eight years before the organization of that Body, and three years before Laurence Dermott, the active spirit in its organization, received the degree.

"The earliest written or printed mention of the Royal Arch degree that Brother Hughan was able to discover was in a little book published by Dr. D'Assigney at Dublin in 1744, but by col-

lateral evidence he was enabled to trace a mention of it to about the year 1738 or 1740. Mention of the degree is also found at dates slightly subsequent to the year 1744, but strange to say the earliest evidence of its actual conferment is to be found in our own country. In the minutes of Fredericksburg Lodge, No. 4, Fredericksburg, Virginia, the Lodge in which our illustrious Brother George Washington was made a Mason, under date of December 22nd, 1753, it is recorded that three brethren, the Master, Senior Warden and Secretary, were raised to the degree of Royal Arch Mason, the ceremony having been performed by a visiting Brother, with the assistance of two members of the Lodge, who were Royal Arch Masons. This record antedates by nine years the earliest mention of the actual conferment of the degree in Great Britain, viz.:—the minutes of the York Lodge, February 9th, 1762.

"The degree was known and worked at Philadelphia in Lodge No. 3, now Jerusalem Chapter No. 3, in 1767, and at Boston in St. Andrew's Lodge, now St. Andrew's Chapter, August 28th, 1769, at which date the same body conferred the degree or Order of Knight Templar, which is the earliest written or printed record of the conferment of that Order found anywhere.

Oliver, Mackey and other writers of their day and generation, were of the opinion that the essential parts of the Royal Arch degree were originally incorporated with the third or Master's degree. Brothers Hughan and Gould do not concur in this belief; but as the 'word' as well as the 'key' are found on Trestle-boards of the Symbolic degrees of a date earlier than we hear of the Royal Arch degree, until we are more particularly informed as to the nature and character of the early degrees the question must still remain an open one. Some of our intelligent students believe that originally there was but one degree in Ancient Masonry and that the essential parts of all the degrees were taken therefrom and elaborated. As in the earlier days, 'the mouth to the ear' manner of teaching Masonry was more rigidly observed than it is in our day, we shall probably never know what the esoteric character of the ritual was prior to the rivival."

Companion Warren La Rue Thomas, Grand Master of the Grand Encampment of the United States, responded to "Templar Masonry" whatever that may be, but his words were good.

"My Brethren I would rather that you would give me one little rose-bud whilst I am passing through this vale of tears, than to assemble around my grave with wagon loads of flowers.

I tell you, my Brothers, we can do much to smooth the rugged path of life for each other if we try. Let us remember this, for if you take that teaching out of Freemasonry there is nothing in it. If you take away the idea of fellowship and of a warm and hearty grasp of the hand, I would not give you a cent for all there left in Masonry."

Biographical sketches of the Past Grand High Priests of the State with neat portraits, forms a no inconsiderable portion of the volume.

The story of the " triennial week " and its festivities is graphically related and gives one a faint glimpse of the hot time enjoyed in the old town on the occasion.

At the annual Convocation M. E. Comp. Shryock in his address very fittingly alluded to the important celebration and the attendant festivities. In the matter of visitation he seems to have about covered his jurisdiction and left a record in this respect worthy of emulation.

Grand Lecturer Dukehart also reports a complete visitation. The excellent condition of the Chapters as testified to by the Grand Inspectors can thus be readily understood.

After twenty-two years service Comp. Schultz has been compelled to relinquish his seaa in the reportorial circle. That this resolve has been brought about by an infirmity will occasion keen sorrow among those who have exchanged views with him for a greater or less portion of that long period. The following extracts from his valedictory will be perused with regretful interest:

" As Chairman of the Committee of Correspondence I beg to report that, in lieu of the usual review of the proceedings of other Grand Chapters this year, it was deemed advisable to compile for the Centennial volume a brief history of the Grand Chapter from 1814 to 1897, which, with the address I had the honor to deliver at the Centennial celebration on the 24th of June last, and the biographical sketches of all our Grand High Priests, constitutes a brief, but comprehensive history of the Grand Chapter throughout the century of its existence.

I had barely concluded my task when my already impaired vision almost entirely failed, and now, after the lapse of nearly two months, I am unable to review the work or even to distinguish between a printed page and a blank sheet of paper."

" While the hope is indulged that I may, in some measure, recover vision, but little prospect remains that I will ever again be able to peruse the proceedings of other Grand Chapters, or prepare a report on Correspondence for this Body. I am, therefore, compelled to ask to be relieved from further service as Chairman of the Committee.

This is a subject of very great regret. The duties of the post, though arduous, have always been most congenial and agreeable. In an experience of twenty-two years I have only the most pleasant reminiscences. Often I have sought to combat, vigorously, the views of other Correspondents and frequently to defend stoutly against their attacks upon my own. But these passages at arms have always been conducted on both sides with candor, moderation and courtesy, and never with bitterness or ill-temper.

"In bidding farewell to my Companions of the Reportorial Corps, I beg to express to them my most sincere thanks for their uniform kindness and courtesy during my long period of service. While I may never again be permitted to read their interesting reports, I shall always feel the same interest in both the reports and their writers as heretofore. May God bless them and all true Masons."

Ten years ago Comp. Schultz who was Deputy Grand High Priest was elected to the chief office, but declined because of his onerous duties as Correspondence Chairman in Grand Lodge and Grand Chapter, and in the completion of his history of Freemasonry in Maryland. Comp. Carter closing a brief biography of him says:

"If he never regains his vision; if he is never permitted to read or write again, his record is made up as one of the most distinguished Masons in this country."

To the prayer of Grand Chapter that their beloved historian may be speedily restored to health and sight we sympathetically rejoin. "So mote it be."

George Cook, Baltimore, Grand High Priest.

Geo. L. McCahan, Baltimore, Grand Secretary.

Michigan.

Chapters, 131; members, 13,239.

Right joyously did the companions of Michigan honour their fiftieth anniversary. The annual Convocation at Grand Rapids on January 18, 1898, was presided over by a M. E. Companion who appropriately bore the festive cognomen Charlie Gay. To the representatives of 129 of the Chapters present, he however delivered a good business-like address, and congratulated

them on "the wonderful growth and prosperity of Capitular Masonry in this Grand Jurisdiction."

Here is one of his decisions, approved by the Jurisprudence Committee, which in a jurisdiction of steel-clad regulation, and especially on the dependent membership question, is amazingly elastic.

"Two members of a Chapter are not members of a lodge, and have not been for more than a year. Each has petitioned a lodge for membership and each was rejected. One of them dimitted intending to go West, but changed his mind. They are all right, but some one in the lodge does not like them. Is it the duty of the Chapter to drop them?"

"Answer. No. They are not voluntarily non-affiliated."

This, however, is just after Michigan's own heart.

"A companion is tried for non-payment of dues. The evidence leaves no doubt as to his guilt, but the sympathy racket is raised, and he is acquitted. How long before charges can again be preferred?"

"Answer. An acquittal does not pay the debt, and unless the Chapter remits the dues, charges may be preferred at any regular convocation for their non-payment."

Here is another on a question the merits of which we have had occasion to remark on more than once:

"A Master Mason who is also a Royal Arch Mason is suspended in Blue Lodge. How does the Chapter become informed of the suspension?"

"Answer. I am not aware of any regulation covering the matter. Notice of the suspension from the Secretary of the Lodge, under seal, should be sufficient. Any notice of the suspension, satisfactory and positive, might be accepted by the Chapter. It was held in 1872 that when a companion is suspended in a Blue Lodge it is the prerogative of the High Priest to procure and file in his Chapter a certificate from the Blue Lodge of such conviction and sentence, and order one entered in the records of his Chapter of like tenor and effect."

Probably the Chapter will assist to regulate the duties of the secretary of the blue lodge.

Comp. Champlin at a previous convocation had been appointed a member of the Board of Control of the Michigan Masonic Home. He wrote to the G.H.P. ac-

knowledging the great honor, but respectfully declined to act. To his letter he appends this significant paragraph :

"This matter will demand your urgent and immediate attention, for the reason that there are inmates of the Home who have to be fed, and, as I understand it, no means have been furnished as yet to maintain the Home, but doubtless will be in the near future."

The expressive features of Michigan's historian, Grand Secretary and Correspondence Chairman Comp. Jefferson S. Conover, look out from the pages preceding his report as Grand Secretary. He is always effecting something for the good of Grand Chapter. This time he announces having completed the portrait gallery devoted to the Past Grand High Priests. There are forty-one of them, and it cost him no little effort to gather them in.

Under "Condition of the Order" Comp. Conover gives some of the reasons advanced by companions who request demits as follows :

"Inability to attend.
Did not want to pay dues.
For the good of the Order.
On account of church discipline.
On account of old age."

The first two and the last are within the bounds of understanding. The others are unique in these days of enlightenment.

Grand Lecturer Goodrich was indefatigable in his visitations. He met and instructed 105 chapters and found a growing desire to excel. Grand Chapter voted him a salary of $600 in addition to his mileage.

A special grant of five dollars each was passed for two elevator boys who were cute enough to be attentive to the companions.

The semi-centennial celebration was held at Armory Hall and Masonic Temple, the features of which were the banquet and Comp. Conover's historical address, "Fifty years of Michigan Royal Arch Masonry and the men who have made it."

Notwithstanding the demands made upon his willing services elsewhere, he contrived to compile an entertaining report on Correspondence and is more than generous in his review of Canada. Having quoted something of our reply to Comp. Greene in a previous report he adds:

"Of course it is Companion Bennett's duty to stand by the action of his Grand Chapter, which has eliminated the Past Master's degree, but this action may prove an obstacle to members of that jurisdiction who desire to visit Chapters in almost any other jurisdiction in the world, as this degree is almost universally acknowledged as a part of the Capitular system. However, there is no desire on the part of other jurisdictions to legislate for the Grand Chapter of Canada."

We've had a sample of this universal theory before and commented thereon, but it wasn't from Comp. Conover, nor did we imagine that Comp. Conover would ever make so sweeping an assertion. It is not worthy of a historian of his mental calibre. He must know, that the degree is *not* almost universally acknowledged, that the many thousands of Royal Arch Masons under the English Constitution, from the rising of the sun to the going down thereof, never heard of it, and expect they visit the United States, which so many American writers regard as "the universe," are never likely to hear of it. Scotland only, of all the portions of the vast British empire outside of this continent, includes the degree in the Capitular system, and it is doubtful even now if it is proud of it. It has always been a matter of surprise how the canny Scot came to patronize the "invention," as Mackay dubs it, but the fact only furnishes another proof that even the most level headed will occasionally suffer from temporary aberration.

Charles M. Norton, Lansing, Grand High Priest.

Jefferson S. Conover, Coldwater, Grand Secretary.

Minnesota.

Chapters 59; members 4,776.

A singular and regrettable incident marked the

period since the last annual Convocation. A paragraph from the Grand Secretary's report explains it:

"It became my painful duty to issue a notice, March 23rd last, reciting the suspension by his lodge of our Grand High Priest, thus terminating his official duties, which were at once assumed by the Deputy Grand High Priest, Comp. O. L. Cutter."

The latter presided over the thirty-sixth annual Convocation, held at St. Paul, Nov. 9, 1897. He refers in his opening to the occasion which called him to undertake the duties of chief ruler.

"I think, companions, that the circumstance here necessarily referred to is without precedent in Masonry. It certainly is in this jurisdiction. And in the consideration thereof, while we remember that "every man hath in his own life sins enough, in his own mind trouble enough, in his own fortunes evil enough, and in performance of his offices failings more than enough, to entertain his own inquiry;" and while we should exercise the broadest charity in all our dealings with the frailties of others, we should not forget our duty to the craft; and the offense, as reported, being so grave in its character and committed by one so prominent in the fraternity, at a time and in a manner most likely to bring reproach upon the Order, I am of the opinion that this Grand Chapter, in justice to itself, should take some action in the matter."

Companions at Ortonville asked for and received a dispensation to institute a new Chapter, and the G. H. P. recommended that a charter be issued. In dealing with the matter of ritual he properly reprehends those who would extract amusement out of what should be the very opposite.

"I regret to say, that, in some Chapters, on some occasions, features are introduced which produce impressions upon the candidates directly the reverse of what is intended by the ritual. There is no place in Masonry for brutality, or for anything that will offend the sensibilities of gentlemen, and it approaches very near sacrilege to follow or connect the beautiful invocations of the Royal Arch degree with actions which savor of buffoonery."

He dwells at some length on the visit to Baltimore, when General Grand Chapter met, and fails not to remind his companions that Minnesota's reputation for hospitality was well sustained.

"Minnesota early opened headquarters at one of the leading hotels in Baltimore, and kept "open house" during the session."

The committee to whom was referred the case of the late Grand High Priest reported:

"That the good of the Royal Craft requires that the facts of this case should be investigated by the Grand Council, and if found to warrant it, that such action be taken, or caused to be taken, as will determine the guilt or innocence of the companion.

That if innocent of the offence charged, the companion's vindication should be perfect and complete; but if guilty, such action should be taken as will leave no room for any man to say that our professions are in word only; that the entire craft may know that he who aspires to wear the robes of High Priest must possess in truth and in fact that purity of life and conduct which we profess and teach.

Your committee therefore recommend that the whole matter be referred to the officers comprising the Grand Council, for investigation and such action as they may deem proper."

A resolution dividing the jurisdiction into fifteen districts instead of ten, for the purposes of visitation was adopted. Peace is indicated in the following terse report.

"Like a physician in a healthy neighborhood, or an insurance agent in a graveyard, so your Committee on Grievances finds itself out of employment."

Canada for 1896 is reviewed by Comp. Thos. Montgomery, Grand Secretary, in his excellent report on Correspondence. He quotes at length from the Grand Z's address, and expresses pleasure at having met "our energetic companion at the General Grand Chapter in Baltimore."

We had commented on the, to us, peculiar law of Minnesota which provides for striking from the rolls the name of a companion whose dues for two years are unpaid, and Comp. Montgomery resents those remarks.

"We believe in a kind criticism, but why should the deliberate acts of Grand Chapters and their settled policy be held up to ridicule, because they differ from the ideas of the writer, or the practice in his jurisdiction?"

Not because they differ from the ideas of the writer or the practice in his jurisdiction, certainly not. There are many methods practised elsewhere that we would gladly see introduced into Canada, and probably Minnesota possesses some of them. In this particular instance however, we must hold to the opinion that the law that would throw out a companion in such summary fashion is manif stly unjust, and furthermore, is inconsistent with the teachings and principles of the Craft. It has, as he says, been the practice in Minnesota for forty years or so, and perhaps has thus been included among those modern "ancient usages" one occasionally hears about. But while our Minnesotan companions have become familiarised to its working it must not be denied that its peculiarity is likely to strike an outsider with surprise, and elicit comment which Companion Montgomery unjustly interprets as ridicule. New York, Louisiana and other reviewers take up the same line as ourselves, and to one of the latest, viz. Ohio, he thus replies :

"In his review of Minnesota he is almost as severe and sarcastic on our practice of striking from the roll as is Companion Bennett of Canada, holding it up to ridicule. Well, we will doubtless get along in the future as well as we have during the past forty-four years in this jurisdiction, where only one uniform practice has obtained and which works to our entire satisfaction. He says we drive a delinquent brother out as completely as if expelled. Not so, by any means. He can have Masonic intercourse with his brethren and retains all the general rights of a Mason, except what is incident to membership. But the Ohio delinquent is *suspended* and *all* Masonic intercourse with him forbidden."

There's a distinction with a difference if you like. He forgets that the Ohio delinquent by paying his two years dues restores himself to membership at once, while the Minnesota companion must encounter the ordeal of the ballot. He has however "all the rights of a Mason except what is incident to membership," and what they are we would ask Comp. Montgomery to kindly explain : We fear our worthy reviewer is a trifle sensitive. Mark his fraternal adieu.

"The Grand Chapter of Canada (limited to Ontario) having

eliminated the degree of Past Master from its Capitular system, Minnesota Chapters should take notice that any companion hailing from that jurisdiction must be denied admission as a visitor, until said degree is imparted to him."

Now that's neither sarcastic nor ridiculous, but just a sort of "got you there old chap," while that little gem, so ingeniously inserted "limited to Ontario," is probably intended to show to the Capitular world generally, and to Minnesotans particularly, our extreme diminutiveness. We regret having to be compelled in the interests of truth and accuracy to spoil something of the possible effect of that little embellishment, but we are glad of the opportunity permitted us to be able in an humble way to inform and instruct a companion. The Grand Chapter of Canada holds jurisdiction from the westernmost boundary of the province of Quebec to the far distant blue Pacific, aye even unto the Klondike, the land of cold and gold, and includes the provinces of Ontario, Manitoba, British Columbia and the North-West Territories. Try again companion.

Companions of Canada (not limited to Ontario), should you at any time have the privilege of welcoming to your chapter a tried companion hailing from the jurisdiction of the State of Minnesota take him to your hearts, make his sojourn among you be such that when he recalls the incident in after years, he can truly say, that he found real brethren in the Land of the Maple and experienced all that his preceptors had taught him was to be found in Masonry.

"Welcome, my old friend,
Welcome to a foreign fireside."

Oscar L. Cutter, Anoka, Grand High Priest.
Thos. Montgomery, St. Paul, Grand Secretary.

Missouri.

Chapters, 97; members, 6,786.

Past Grand High Priests Mordhurst of Indiana and Spencer of Kansas were among the visitors introduced to the fifty-second annual Convocation held at St. Louis on April 28th, 1898.

M. E. Comp. Kuhn welcomed his companions in an address that covers 36 pages of the proceedings, and yet to gaze upon his charitable countenance in the frontispiece one would never have believed it of him. Mark how he leads off:

"Masonry is true to every duty that ennobles man, an inspiration to the oppressed, and a foe to bigotry, priest-craft and tyranny. We rejoice in the mandate that our country has flung to the winds of the world, encircled in the silken folds of our starry flag, and enshrined, if need be, in the blood of our heroes: Out, out of Cuba, thou shalt go, treacherous descendants of an inquisitorial race!

We are loyal to our God, to our country, and to every duty that Masonry places upon our hearts and conscience."

Among the commisions issued was one R. E. Comp. W. Gibson of Beamsville, Ontario, Missouri's representative near the Grand Chapter of Canada.

"It is the common lot of every Grand High Priest to answer many questions on subjects and points of Masonic law that have been decided annually for the last fifty years; among which comes the perennial prayer: "Grant us a Dispensation to ballot out of time," "Grant us a Dispensation to receive petitions for degrees for less than the minimum fee," "Grant us a Dispensation to confer the degrees upon a minister free of charge." To all of which I have answered, No; and referred to former decisions."

There's backbone for you; but if he thus replied to application for dispensations, he was not so brief when questions on other matters were directed at him. Among the interesting cases he had to deal with was the following:

A brother petitioned a chapter for the degrees; after receiving the degrees it was found that he had made a false statement in his petition, he having been suspended in his blue lodge many years prior to his petitioning. Charges were preferred against him for un-Masonic conduct; trial was held, and the chapter by a vote refused to inflict the highest penalty, the chapter concluding that suspension in the lodge carried with it suspension in the chapter. Some of the companions were not of this opinion and opened the question. The Grand High Priest found that the case of the accused

"Presented two conditions which were independent of each other, so far as his standing in the chapter is concerned : First. His standing as a Royal Arch Mason who has been suspended by his Lodge for non-payment of dues. Second. As a Royal Arch Mason who had obtained the degrees by misrepresentation.

His suspension in the chapter by virtue of his suspension by his Lodge does not prevent action by the chapter on the charge of un-Masonic conduct. In the action brought by the chapter on the charge of un-Masonic conduct, the trial was not completed. The law prescribes three penalties : First. Reprimand. Second. Suspension to a definite period. Third. Expulsion. The companion on trial is entitled to the finding of guilt and the infliction of one of the penalties, or acquittal. As this was not done, I held that the trial was null and void, because incomplete and an injustice to the chapter and perhaps to Companion Green. I ordered a retrial of the case without delay."

Here is another. The case of Comp. C. P. Patteson, who

"At the beginning of the Civil War entered the army, and at the battle of Pea Ridge in 1861 he was reported dead. He returned after the war a poor man, and while he kept himself in good standing in the Blue Lodge, he believed himself to have been suspended in his Chapter for non-payment of dues (he evidently had not heard of his own death) and being unable to pay allowed the matter to go by defanlt until the present, when E. Comp. D. W. Wallace became interested in the case and endeavored to secure his restoration."

The records of his Chapter prior to '68 had been lost and there was some difficulty in establishing the companion's identity, but it was finally accomplished and he was duly restored. The G.H.P. facetiously remarking:

"This case is more peculiar in this ; that there is a companion who is not content to live, in song and in story, as having died a hero's death on the gory field of battle in his country's cause, lying with his mute face to the silvery stars and his feet to the foe ; but he prefers to brush off the poetry of all this historic death, and asks re-instatement in this common-place earth. Well—"*Non degustibus disputandum est.*"

He called attention to the fact that the remains of the late J. W. S. Mitchell, the first Grand High Priest of Missouri, lie in an unmarked grave at Griffin, Ga, and recommended that a headstone be erected by the Grand Chapter.

In conection with the Masonic Home the G.H.P. pays a merited tribute to the ladies of the Eastern Star, by whose efforts $3,500 were raised for the purpose of erecting a chapel.

Referring to the dilatoriness of Chapter officers:

"In a few instances I was compelled to write many times before the Secretary got awake long enough to fill out and mail the report. I feel assured that a Masonic funeral of Secretaries would be a blessing in some quarters of our State, and the ceremony might include a few High Priests."

He went minutely into the internal economy of the constituent Chapters, and the outcome of his labours must be a re-awakening. Here are a few of his deductions:

"One reports twenty-one members, no money in the treasury, an average of $6.00 of dues per member uncollected, and the value of working paraphernalia is only $10, yet the chapter imagines itself well equipped."

"Many chapters give the reason as "hard times," yet when I examine the records I find that some of these chapters held but one convocation in a year. "Hard times" does not prevent the members from attending the stated convocations. One of these "hard times" chapters has a large delinquent list as to annual dues; the High Priests notified the delinquents to appear and show cause for non-payment, but when the evening for the hearing came, the delinquents did not come, and scarcely anyone else—no quorum! Apathy played a cruel joke on "hard times."

"I am persuaded that there are as many good men out of Royal Arch Masonry, in the ranks of the Blue Lodge, as are in the chapters. The number of Royal Arch Masons in our State, as compared with the number of Master Masons, is far below the average. I am one of those who believe in telling the Master Mason what a good thing Royal Arch Masonry is."

His eloquent closing we would fain reproduce but for lack of space. The Committee on the Address congratulated Grand Chapter

"Upon an executive officer whose genius is such that his state papers are poems, and his poems are state papers."

It was subsequently moved that five thousand copies be printed and distributed among the chapters—as was the admirable address of Grand Chaplain Rev. Dr. George on "Capitular Masonry."

The question of a cipher ritual or Grand Lecturer was considered by a committee of five, four of whom favored the lecturer, and one the cipher. The following substitute resolution was adopted :

"That the work of this Grand Chapter be placed in cipher, that one copy be placed in the hands of each of the Grand Officers, one to each Past Grand High Priest active in the work, and one copy in the custody of each subordinate chapter of the State."

Companion W. H. Mayo, the Grand Secretary, presided over the Correspondence report, and as usual is a most interesting review, in which, however, Canada does not appear.

Chas. S. Glaspell, Kansas City, Grand High Priest.
William H. Mayo, St. Louis, Grand Secretary.

Montana.

Chapters, 15 ; members, 811.

Another Chapter has been added to the strength of Montana, and the membership is 54 ahead of the previous report. Thus at its ninth annual Convocation held at Helena, on Sept. 13, 1898, Grand High Priest Robert Vickers was enabled to congratulate the jurisdiction on a palpable advance. He was naturally interested in his country's conflict with Spain and his opening remarks are devoted to that subject :

"Montana, though one of the youngest of the States, and far removed from any possible approach of an enemy, promptly answered the call, and with one of the companies went three of my sons, who are now far away in the Philippines, where the opening and crowning victories were won.

"You will pardon me, companions, I know, if my heart and thoughts have been more with my boys than in the duties of my office. Though the war is apparently ended, my anxieties have not ceased, for camp fever is more dangerous than the enemy's bullets. It can be but a matter of congratulation to us all that the fruits of the war already garnered are so many and substantial. Spain has no longer any foothold on this continent. Our brothers in Cuba will not hereafter be persecuted for their connection with Masonry. English sympathy has been with us throughout, and for the first time in history, English-speaking people all over the

world, among whom Masonry finds its most congenial soil, are in heart-warm alliance, a fact that promises great things for the future.

"The achievements of our navy, with such heroes as Dewey, Sampson, Schley, and a host of others, as well as those of our army, whenever opportunity presented, have advanced our nation to the front rank among the great powers of the world, and opens a grand future, in which Masonry is sure to flourish."

Grand Chapter had but little to engage its serious attention at this convocation. The various duties of the committees were unusually light. The new Chapter was continued under dispensation owing to its records not having reached Grand Chapter. The custodian of them travelled by a ricketty stage which of course broke down at the wrong time and delayed him one day.

An exchange of Representatives with New Zealand was agreed to.

A page, with "old glory" in colors at the top, is devoted to the names of Montana companions who "'listed foh de wah." There were fourteen in all and included one brigadier general, one colonel, two majors, one captain, four lieutenants, three sergeants, one corporal, and, actually, one private.

Introducing his all original report on Correspondence, Companion Hedges says:

"The evidences of general depression, with its pangs and forebodings are gradually disappearing, and many of the "calamity howlers" have joined the stampede to Klondike. The great powers of Europe, having devoured all of Africa that is palatable, are now ravishing China. The "unspeakable Turk," by the grace of the German Emperor, is still in Thessaly, and Spain is trying to subdue Cuba by starvation. Our actual good fortune seems vastly increased when we compare our own country with any other in the world. Our peace, prosperity and perpetuity are founded in solid Masonry."

Noting M. E. Comp. Walsh's reference to the Queen's jubilee, he remarks:

"If Spain had learned from England how to retain the loyal and willing obedience of her colonies, our present war with Spain would never have occurred."

He closes his kind review of Canada with the following directed at the Correspondence Chairman :

"Companion George J. Bennett lays us under obligations for another spicy Correspondence Report. Like a loyal Canadian, he defends and approves the action of his Grand Chapter in eliminating the Past Master's degree, if such it can be called, and like a loyal British subject, he indulges no ulterior desires that the Dominion shall ever become a part of the United States. We have no fault to find with him on either of these positions. Even at the risk of a charge of heresy, we must say that we have never seen anything connected properly with the so-called Past Master's degree to make a degree of. It is like the system prevailing in English jurisdictions of conferring past rank upon deserving members in recognition of meriterious service.

"As to the union of Canada with the United States, we can assure our companion that only a few enthusiastic dreamers of a sea-girt republic over this side of the line ever think or speak of the subject. What may come within the next thousand years none of us can tell, but for an indefinite future we have all the country that we can develope, and just now we are getting more than we know what to do with.

"We appreciate our companion's friendly notice of Montana and his criticisms. We have a great and rich state full of resources, and our expectations are great. Our elevation gives us expansive views, and they affect our Masonry as well as everything else. We fail to see any reason for another appointment for next year's Correspondence in Canada. We hope our Companion is not going to abandon a field for which he has shown such peculiar fitness.

S. C. Kenyon, Bozeman, Grand High Priest.
Cornelius Hedges, Helena, Grand Secretary.

Nebraska.

Chapters 52 ; members 2,967.

Returns for the year show that the losses exceeded the gains by eighty-four, but Grand High Priest Rittenhouse in his address to the thirty-first annual Convocation at Omaha, Dec. 15, 1897, was in no wise despondent.

"Brighter days are dawning, and if the feeble spark of life can be kept burning yet a little while, no doubt most of them will be able to build anew, and, doubtless, more substantial. Our Master Mason lodges have been doing good work and true the last year, doubtless preparing the way for much work soon to follow in Capitular Masonry. Yet, with very few exceptions, con-

sidering the disadvantages that some are laboring under, we might say that we are pleased with the work and reports as we find them."

He decided against a ten dollar assessment made by a Chapter in order to pay off a building debt.

He pointed out the importance of the Cryptic degrees to R. A. Masonry, and urged that it receive the consideration it deserves.

Official reports presented did not reveal anything that would interest the companions outside of the jurisdiction. The secretaries of subordinate Chapters were praised by the Committee on Returns for their promptitude in sending in the annual returns.

The following resolution was adopted :

"That the incoming Grand High Priest be empowered to appoint a committee to act in conjunction with like committees of other Masonic Grand bodies of this jurisdiction, including the adoptive rite of Order of the Eastern Star, for the purpose of providing headquarters at the Trans-Mississippi Exposition for Freemasons and their families during the progress of said exposition. The sum of three hundred dollars is hereby appropriated for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this resolution."

The hospitable "smiling sisters" were in their right place there no doubt.

A reception tendered the Grand Lodge by the Omaha Chapters

"was attended by several hundred companions and ladies; the Fort Crook band was "sweet and musical as bright Apollo's lute," and the caterer of the Millard Hotel presented delicate "viands the appetite to goad"—that low twelve was heard ere the last guest departed is ample testimony as to the enjoyment of those present."

M. E. Comp. Chas. J. Phelps having descended from the Grand East, again grasps the reportorial quill, and a few extracts from his introduction will serve to show that he has lost none of his old time vigour.

"It is a mistake to suppose that all the questions of interest to Royal Arch Masonry have been discussed and disposed of by Masonic writers, so that a dearth in matter for comment greets the

reviewer. In Masonic as in civil and ecclesiastic law and lore, the field is broad, and the application of Masonic landmarks and principles to conditions presented in varied form taxes the knowledge and wisdom of those whose duty it is to discuss and determine them."

He argues the mooted question as to whether the prerogatives of a Grand Master, recognized from time immemorial, are possessed equally by a Grand High Priest. Companion Phelps having just doffed the dignity of the latter exalted position is enabled to feel what he says:

"Royal Arch Masonry, claiming to be purely Masonic, must maintain laws, rules and regulations for the government of the Craft, which, to be consistent, must also be purely Masonic. How, then, are its presiding officers to rule and govern Masonically unless such presiding officers possess and exercise the Masonic prerogatives exercised by the rulers in Ancient Craft Masonry?"

Canada '98 he reviews to the extent of three pages. Of Grand Z J. Ross Robertson, he says:

"During his term of two years and six months he has visited eighty chapters, which fact attests the zeal with which he has wrought, and is an index of a Masonic record which distinguishes him among the leaders in our fraternity.

He is pronounced in his favor of the doctrine of dependent membership and argues with force its soundness. His address is filled with good things well calculated to rejoice the heart of every zealous Royal Arch Mason.

Alluding to our comments on the P. M. degree he says:

"This writer is glad to be regarded an enthusiast in Freemasonry, but he will never forget the disgust he experienced when he was "seated in the Oriental Chair." When he finds that the objectionable features are being eliminated he rejoices, and when the whole thing is abolished by some Grand Chapter he is made right glad."

From a companion whose belief that it is the Mason's duty "to preserve that which distinguishes our Fraternity from all other organizations among men, and to stay the ruthless hand of innovation," the following will be regarded as, not "silly," but decidedly inconsistent:

"Companion Bennett don't like public installations, and much can be said against them; but where it is a custom recognised as proper, it is simply silly to object to the presence of Eastern Star ladies, all of whom are closely allied to members of the Masonic Fraternity. Their presence, more than any others, is appropriate, if any outsiders are to be admitted."

There can be no doubt whatever that if outsiders are permitted, the "Eastern Star ladies" might as well be there as not. It is the presence of outsiders of either sex that strikes us as being a flagrant violation of ancient custom and established usage.

R. H. Henry, Columbus, Grand High Priest.

William R. Bowen, Omaha, Grand Secretary.

Nevada.

Chapters, 8; members, 298.

The twenty-fifth annual Convocation was held on the 13th June, 1898, at Carson City. Grand High Priest Matthew Kyle welcomed the companions and gave an account of his stewardship in an address that for extent would do justice to a more pretentious jurisdiction.

"Nothing has occurred to disturb the peace and harmony of Capitular Masonry in this Jurisdiction; that the Subordinate chapters are in a fairly prosperous condition, and that the annual returns show, the first time for several years, an increase in our membership."

He was not troubled with any problem to tax his knowledge of jurisprudence but in the matter of issuing special dispensations he was generous to a degree. Keystone Chapter at Pioche had been dormant for years and he permitted its removal to De Lamar, fifty miles distant, where it gives promise of renewed activity.

He urged the appointment of a skilled companion to visit the Chapters for the purpose of imparting much needed instruction.

"For more than a quarter of a century I have been a member of this subliime Order, and by your partiality have been honored many times with prominent positions in the Royal Craft, but not

until one year ago was the highest gift in your power bestowed upon me. On being elected to this high and responsible position I formed a solemn resolution, that as far as in my power, I would advance the cause of Capitular Masonry in this Jurisdiction, and this resolution has been religiously kept."

In addition to his salary of $200, Grand Secretary Noteware was given a bonus of $50.

The following resolution was adopted:

"That the ladies of Esther Chapter, No. 121, O.E.S., are hereby extended the compliments of this Grand Chapter for having so beautifully decorated this hall with natural flowers and evergreens, and for the fragrant bouquets that adorn the pedestals of the Grand Council and Grand Organist, and also for the buttonhole bouquets furnished to the members of this Grand Chapter; and that the R. E. Grand Secretary transmit a copy of this resolution to Esther Chapter, No. 121, O.E.S."

The installation of officers came off next morning, but it does not appear that the gratitude of the companions went to the extent of inviting the ladies to assist at the ceremony.

Companion A. D. Bird's second report on Correspondence is a valuable addition to the proceedings. Canada had not reached him. The volume throughout is highly creditable to Nevada which, if numerically small, is charged with a spirit that not only keeps the Capitular embers aglow but gives abundant promise of a living flame in the future.

John M. McCormack, Reno, Grand High Priest.

C. N. Noteware, Carson City, Grand Secretary.

New Brunswick.

Chapters, 7; members, 401.

On the 25th August, 1897, the tenth annual Convocation was opened at St. John, by M. E. Comp. John Valentine Ellis, Grand High Priest. Seven Chapters were represented. Past Grand High Priest Ruhland, of Nova Scotia, was introduced and welcomed.

An excellent portrait of Hon. Robert Marshall accompanies the proceedings.

The Grand High Priest's address was, as usual, an interesting document.

"No doubt it was a wise proceeding to establish a Grand Chapter in this Province, as its effect must be to promote unity of feeling, and the cultivation among us of the closest fraternal relations. On the other hand, in a limited jurisdiction such as we have in New Brunswick, we must be content with small achievements and be satisfied in a state of progress which companions in a larger field would almost despise. The reports which will be submitted to you by the Grand Treaaurer and the Grand Secretary will show, I think, that if we have not made very rapid gains in the past year, we have satisfactorily held our own. Numerically and financially we are not very strong, but I will not say that with a sturdy roll of companions and no debt we are weak or even ineffective."

The G. H. P. did some visitation during the year and spoke warmly of the good work and equipment of the Chapters. Referring to the Companions of the Scottish obedience and his successful efforts to bring them in under the fold, he said :

"In my address of last year, I stated that I had visited Mount Lebanon Chapter, under Scottish registry at Chatham, and expressed myself confidently that before that year expired we would have the full sympathy and co-operation of our Chatham companions before this meeting. I also expressed the belief that we would have the attendance of their representative at this annual convocation. Soon after the meeting the Mount Lebanon Chapter sent us the terms upon which they thought it right and fair that we should accept them on our registry. The matter went before the Executive Committee, and that committee decided that the terms were such as could be accepted by us. They were accepted and approved and the Grand Secretary was directed to inform the Chapter. In the meantime notices were sent to all the Chapters in the jurisdiction advising them of the action which had been taken, and directing them not to receive as candidates for the degrees any Masons living within the jurisdiction of the Mount Lebanon Chapter. The matter progressed so far, but up to the present moment I have not been further advised, and do not know whether Mount Lebanon has yet formally withdrawn its allegiance from the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland. It has not, at least, sent us a list of its members or made returns. Probably the illness, followed by the death of Excellent Companion John Fotheringham, who was the Scribe E. of the Chapter and with whom we had considerable correspondence, may have caused delay. I was very sorry to hear of the death of Companion Fotheringham, who was a hearty and excellent Mason and a

worthy and reputable citizen. His removal is a loss to the Craft and to the community in which he lived."

Closing, the G. H. P. aptly says:

"The Royal Arch degrees maintain their firm hold on the Craft in every jurisdiction whose proceedings I have read during the year, and the great lesson of Divine guidance and support which they inculcate are not without influence upon the hearts of us all. I am glad to see that the work satisfactorily progresses on this continent, and sincerely hope it may thus continue."

A note inserted towards the close of the proceedings announces the happy consummation of the Grand High Priest's efforts in connection with Mount Lebanon Chapter, S. R.

"The Executive Committee of the Grand Chapter is glad to be able to state that since the Annual Convocation of Grand Chapter, arrangements have been completed between the Grand Royal Arch Chapter and the Mount Lebanon Chapter of Chatham, formerly of the Scottish registry, by which Mount Lebanon Chapter is placed upon the roll of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of New Brunswick."

The new Chapter will take its place on the roll according to date of its warrant from the Grand Chapter of Scotland, fees and dues to commence from 1st January, 1898.

John V. Ellis, St. John, Grand High Priest.

John A. Watson, St. John, Grand Secretary.

New Hampshire.

Chapters, 35; members, 3,469.

An addition of one Chapter and 134 members was the good showing made at the seventy-eighth annual Convocation held at Concord, on the 18th May, 1897. M. E. Comp. W. F. Knight, Grand High Priest, was active during the year as his record of official acts denotes. The desire on the part of the companions to "elevate the standard of the work" he urged should be encouraged.

"Some of our chapters have borrowed descriptive forms from the monitorial work of chapters ontside the state, and I firmly

believe that the additions to the lectures in the Royal Arch degree give to our candidates a clearer and better idea of this degree, reciting as they do the story of the trials of our ancient brethren, who travelled those rough and rugged paths on their return to rebuild their city and temple. While some might think this an innovation in our work, I must confess that I heartily favor any such changes as will give those who seek to know the history on which the foundation of our Order is built a better understanding of the work of Capitular Masonry."

The public installation is a feature of this jurisdiction. What a revelation this must be to those who know nothing of such practices. Of course one has to get used to it, like taking castor oil.

"At the request of James E. Gridley, High Priest of Carroll Chapter, No. 23, at Wolfeborough, I gave permission for a public meeting and installed their officers, on the evening of April 6th, 1897, assisted by Charles H. Webster, Grand King, and George H. Everett, Past High Priest. A large attendance was present to witness the ceremony, after which a social hour occupied with music and dancing was enjoyed by all."

That the Chapters were well looked after is gathered from the reports of the visiting officers, as well as from the address of the Grand High Priest.

Nine Past Grand High Priests present at this convocation were presented with gold jewels. E. Comp. Woodbury, on behalf of Grand Chapter, making the presentations in a neat address which was replied to by M. E. Comp. Edward Gustine on behalf of himself and his eight companions.

One of the latter, M. E. Comp. A. S. Wait, presides at the reportorial table and his contribution to the Correspondence library is as full and entertaining as ever. He had Canada for '96 under his eye.

Referring to our expressed objection to installations in public he say :

"He takes occasion to express himself against public installations, in this agreeing with Companion Harrison, of Delaware and and one or two Grand Chapters of the United States."

This is a delicate intimation that we are in a hopeless minority. Nevertheless if even the "one or two"

Grand Chapters are won over we will still be found grasping the banner of dissent.

"We have reason to appreciate highly the manner of allusion to the matter growing out of the discussion between ourselves and Companion Drummond; and it is probably best that with this remark the subject should be dropped, while we assure our companions of Canada, and Companion Bennett in especial, of our most fraternal esteem."

On the physical qualification question, Companion Long of Indiana had contended that what applied to the blue did not hold good under the regulations of the Chapter, which is a distinct organization. Comp. Wait replies:

"The chapter is in no correct sense a separate, or distinct, organization from the lodge. It cannot exist without the lodge, either in its membership or its degrees. Nor are the chapter degrees a new design, begun and carried forward in any sense as such. On the contrary, the entire rituals of both the lodge and chapter postulate that they are one entire system, begun in the lodge and carried forward by consecutive degrees to its results and final perfection in the Royal Arch. So far, indeed, from Companion Long's premises being well founded, that, eliminating the Past Master's degree, which is the same in both, and the Entered Apprentice, which is only preliminary in its nature, the other three degrees of the chapter are only expansions of the lodge degrees of Fellow Craft and Master Mason. The degree of Master is nothing more nor less than an expansion, we might properly say an unfolding of the Fellow Craft. So true is this also the case with the Royal Arch degree, with respect to the lodge degree of Master Mason, that the former was in its origin a part of the latter; both were conferred in the same body, the one only as the legitimate outcome and perfection of the other, and for a long time both were under the jurisdiction of the same controlling body. The later separation of these degrees by the separation of the chapter from the lodge has not in the least changed or affected the spirit or genius of the degrees of the chapter. We should say here also, that the Most Excellent Master degree of the chapter is built upon, and is the mere outgrowth of the degree of Master Mason, and seems to be a necessary connecting link between its beginning in the lodge and its perfection in the Royal Arch."

At North Dakota he stays for a time to comment on the Eastern Star visit to the Grand Chapter.

"We have noticed in this report one other similar occur-

rence, and we can but think they are the introduction of a practice at least questionable, according to the ancient plan and traditions of Masonry. Here is an organized body, unknown to Masonry in its origin, over which Masonic authority does not extend, whose membership, moreover, is composed largely of women, formally admitted within the apartments of an assembled Masonic body, each recognizing the other as a body to be in its organized capacity communicated with. True, indeed, the chapter was at refreshment. But it stopped its work and went to refreshment for the purpose of having, as a body, communication with a body whose members not only are not but are forbidden to become Masons. To our apprehension it is an entering wedge. It is the camel's nose. It is the "will you walk into my parlor." We urged upon our own Grand Lodge, and think we had some part in bringing about permission for the bodies of the Eastern Star to occupy our lodge halls for their meetings. In doing so we insisted that the bodies were in no sense Masonic, and made no claim to be such. It was on that ground that Masonry, recognizing certain well understood duties towards near female relations of Masons, such a courtesy might properly be extended to them. We are still satisfied with that action, and would not desire to see it reversed. Our companions of North Dakota and Missouri have gone a vast way beyond this, and set an example questionable in its rectitude and dangerous in its tendency. We think it a precedent which our ladies themselves will sometimes see reason to regret."

For the life of us we cannot understand Comp. Wait's objection. He is a supporter of public installations in his own jurisdiction and has, he admits, advocated the use of Masonic lodge rooms for this same Star organization, yet calls down North Dakota for encouraging the "wedge."

Now if there was a wedge inserted at all it was when Masonic ceremonies were opened to the profane, and it received an additional drive when permission was asked and accorded for "an organized body unknown to Masonry in its origin" to have the use of apartments consecrated to Masonry. If Companion Wait desires to be regarded as consistent in this regard, he will use his influence to remove the wedge in New Hampshire, and his well put expressions of astonishment will then, we hope, have the effect they were intended to convey. The companions of Missouri and North Dakota may have gone a vast way beyond what New Hampshire has done but they didn't cover the interval all at once. They commenced with the small wedge and kept at it

tap after tap until now they have effected an opening big enough for whole batallions of outside "admirers" to march through, an opening that they will find it next to impossible to close. New Hampshire's wedge is equally insinuating, and in due time will achieve the same deplorable result.—*nous verrons.*

John H. Steele, Peterborough, Grand High Priest.

Geo. S. Cleaves, Concord, Grand Secretary.

New Jersey.

Chapters, 38 ; members, 3390.

Anthony Schoder, the M. E. Grand High Priest, presided over the forty-second annual Convocation held at Trenton, May 11th, 1898, and addressed his companions with timely reference to the rupture with Spain.

"The flight of the months seemingly as swift as a weaver's shuttle has brought us face to face to the close of another Capitular year, and to-day, with spring unlocking the flowers to paint the laughing soil and all nature wearing one universal smile, by the mercy of our Heavenly Father we are for the forty-second time assembled in annual convocation as a Grand Royal Arch Chapter. How different the circumstances which surround us to-day from those of one year ago ! Then we were at peace with all the world. To-day, almost within the sound of booming cannon, we are in deadly conflict with one of the haughtiest of the old-world nations ; not for the acquisition of territory, but because down-trodden, suffering, starving humanity with out-stretched arms has appealed to us for succor and relief against treachery and barbarism."

He congratulated Grand Chapter on the general progress and harmony. The physical perfection question came before him in the following :

"I received a communication from the High Priest of one of our chapters stating that a certain Brother, who had lost a leg since he had been raised, had made application to the Chapter for the Capitular Degrees and membership therein, and asked if the Brother could be made a Royal Arch Mason. After having satisfied myself as to the full extent of the injury, I replied that, while deeply sympathizing with the good Brother's misfortune, I felt that the physical defect was of such a nature as to militate against his being made a Royal Arch Mason.

"There is a variety of opinions on the question of physical qualifications.

"It is my belief that the outer man should be a true type of the inner qualifications, and in no account inferior to them."

The Committees on Warrants, Unfinished Business, Grievances and Appeals, and Charity, had nothing before them.

An invitation from the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge to be present at the dedication of the new Masonic Home on St. John's Day, 24th June, was on motion accepted.

Grand Secretary Geo. B. Edwards is also Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence. He reviews forty-six jurisdictions, among which Canada is not. That, however, does not interfere with the construction of a truly excellent report.

He fails not to seize the opportunity when offered to express his unalterable belief in physical perfection. To one who suggested that a "more reasonable interpretation is that the candidate must be able to conform to all the necessary requirements of the degrees," he caustically observes:

"The words 'conform' and 'comply,' without further qualification, are subject to various interpretations in this connection. Does a candidate 'conform' who has lost two-thirds of a leg and is reconstructed artificially, or 'comply' with an artificial hand and arm extending from his shoulder, mechanically adjusted to a semblance?"

In a similar vein he replies to Comp. Singleton, who ventured to assert that the Cryptic, not the Arch degrees are the summit of Ancient Craft Masonry.

"Can it be possible, in the natural order of architecture, that a crypt can be the summit of an edifice? Has he forgotten the Egyptian rite of one hundred or more degrees, numerically less than the Arabian Nights? Again, in that Eastern land, the mysteries of the Shrine—the foundation of which is placed on the very apex of the larger pyramid—the climbing of which by unshod feet that have been scorched by travelling the hot sands of the desert is an achievement far beyond the descent into a crypt, if altitude is the climax sought."

John B. Bertholf, Jersey City, Grand High Priest.

Geo. B. Edwards, Jersey City, Grand Secretary.

New York.

Chapters 188 ; members 20,339.

One hundred years have passsed since the Grand Chapter of the Empire State was formed, and the companions of 1898 fittingly celebrated the anniversary and recalled with gratitude the pioneer companions of 1798. One whose name and fame is known to every Masonic student, Thomas Smith Webb, was in that early period the active spirit in the organization of General Grand Chapter, and when on the 14th March, 1798, the Grand Chapter of New York State was born, Webb was its first Grand Treasurer. In 1898, by a happy coincidence the presiding officer is a namesake, M. E. Comp. John Webb, Jr., and under his sway the eventful Convocation which was held in the Masonic Temple, Albany, on February 1st, was held. Opening his address he says :

"Yet how marvelous the changes a century has wrought. One hundred years ago our land was a vast wilderness, with only an opening here and there ; the interior of the continent a sealed book ; the treasures of forest and mine unknown ; but the resistless force of human energy and enterprise strode forth waving its wonder-working wand, until the wilderness disappeared. The mart of commerce, the hall of science, the temple of religion arose, and the dwellers in one small portion of world have enjoyed in all those years unprecedented prosperity, the advantages of education and the privilege of worshipping their Maker as conscience dictated, and have been made partakers of the products of every clime, and of the fertility of every soil."

The second day of Grand Chapter was devoted to the centennial exercises.

M. E. Comp. Seymour H. Stone the senior Past Grand High Priest presided. Rt. Rev. Comp. H. C. Potter, Bishop of New York, delivered an eloquent oration on the antiquity of Masonry. Historical addresses dealing with various periods in the century were then given by M. E. Companions David F. Day, Marvin I. Greenwood and William Sherer, and proved valuable and interesting.

Among the distinguished visitors present was M. E. Comp. J. V. Ellis, Grand High Priest of New Brunswick.

The centennial banquet in the evening was a feast of reason. The responses to the appropriate sentiments of the toast-master were singularly forcible and instructive.

In addition to all this great flow of eloquence, Grand Chaplain Jas. Byron Murray whose fine portrait is included with the proceedings, gave his annual Masonic address to Grand Chapter, his theme on this occasion being "The Grand Chapter, an Influence and Purpose."

Past Grand High Priest Sherer took occasion by a resolution to rebuke those companions who put hypothetical questions to the Grand High Priest, thus taking up that officer's time, and later that of the Committee. This is the kind of thing the Committee objects to:

"A and B are two Chapters. C, desiring to locate at some point between, applies to A, the nearest Chapter, for its recommendation and consent. C receives a warrant and is duly constituted.

"*Question.* "What is C's jurisdiction, and does it affect the original jurisdiction of B? B, not having been consulted in the matter, can a part of its jurisdiction be taken without its consent?"

Two new Chapters were organized at Catskill and Granville respectively.

The case of Washington Chapter, New York, against which charges were preferred in 1896 was again to the fore. The offence was that degrees were conferred upon a large number of candidates for half the minimum fee, which by constitution is twenty dollars. The commission appointed to enquire into the matter held that the charges were sustained, suspended the charter and recommended its forfeiture, and further ordered that the costs of the trial $180, be paid by the offending Chapter.

Grand Chapter subsequently ordered the forfeiture of the charter, and a resolution ordering proceedings to be taken against individual members of Washington Chapter responsible for the violation of the constitution was adopted.

New York is apparently happy in its ritual. The committee reporting: "We consider the ritualistic question as practically settled. . . . We earnestly hope it will remain untouched and unchanged by the ruthless hand of innovation."

It was ordered by resolution that a portrait of Thomas Smith Webb "one of the founders of this Grand Chapter" be published with the proceedings, but by some oversight it was omitted from the volume.

Companion George J. Gardiner's report on Correspondence, always one of the delightful features of New York's printed proceedings, comes to us this time in sadly attenuated form. He had hoped to preface his report in the centennial volume with a retrospective sketch, which, coming from his pen, would have proved so acceptable.

"But in this we have been disappointed, and you, our dear readers, have been deprived of a rich literary feast. The limits to which we have been confined by the restrictive resolution adopted at the last annual convocation, has precluded carrying out our plan until that c. t. is elongated sufficiently for our successor to impart this information if, in his wisdom, he shall deem it expedient to do so."

He gives Canada for '96 a couple of pages, which we consider most generous under the circumstances. He is most laudatory of Grand Z. Robertson's address, which he says "should be spread in full before our readers for the bulk of its matter is of a general character, such as to interest and instruct all.

"The reports of the Grand Superintendents of the respective districts, contain much that would interest our readers. Heretofore we have quoted liberally therefrom, but owing to the restriction placed upon us, our readers will now be deprived of this highly prized benefit.

The report of the Committee on theCondition of Capitular Masonry in that jurisdiction, is an able paper, and presents in a synopsis, much valuable information."

The reviewer's labours he dubs "voluminous and valuable."

"We thank him for his complimentary expressions touching

our labors, and did space permit, would dwell longer over his many valuable specimens brought up for our inspection."

Here is his pathetic closing :

"Companions of the Guild, we *may* not meet again—certainly not, unless the fifty page resolution is modified. We cannot, with any degree of self-respect, act under it. For nine years we have journeyed along the highway of Royal Arch Masonry in harmony. We are ignorant of uttering a word which we would desire to blot. We have held sweet counsel together, both giving and receiving. The "three-times-three" is now complete, and the journey *may be* ended. It has been our privilege to help, aid and assist in this noble and glorious undertaking. We have aided to the best of our ability, and trust our labor has not been in vain. Life's journey with us, too, is nearing its close. In a few months the eightieth year of our natural life will be completed—in all probability we stand the "elder brother" of the Guild. Should we part, I know of no more consoling words to address to you, than those of him who labored so earnestly for our cause while in the flesh, the noble, generous-hearted, loving and lovable Morris :

"Hands round, ye Royal Craftsmen, in the bright fraternal chain !
We part upon the Square below to meet in Heaven again ;
Each tie that has been broken here shall be cemented there,
And none be lost around the Throne who parted on the Square."

The fifty page mandate however was amended by a resolution of M. E. Comp. Sherer, that the report be limited to one hundred pages, and the veteran companion is still there. Long may he be spared to give his companions the benefit of his ripe experience.

John Webb, Jr., Gouverneur, Grand High Priest.

Chris. G. Fox, Buffalo, Grand Secretary.

North Carolina.

Chapters, 36 ; members, 703.

The semi-centennial volume is indeed a handsome one and reflects much credit on the compilers. Not the least of the many interesting features of it are the portraits and biographical sketches of the companions who have ruled as Grand High Priest during the years from 1847 to 1897, many of whom have gone to their reward. There are also brief historical sketches of the Chapters of the jurisdiction which will render the volume of particular value in every section of the State.

Grand Chapter met in fiftieth annual Convocation at Raleigh on May 17th, 1898. M. E. Companion W. A. Withers, Grand High Priest, welcomed the companions and referred feelingly to the death in the previous September of M. E. Comp. Alfred Martin, the first Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter.

The lack of a treasury prevented his accomplishing the visitations he desired, but he expressed the hope that the finances might grow with the future.

He decided that suspension by a Blue Lodge for non-payment of dues has no effect upon the standing of a Royal Arch Mason in his chapter.

Greenville and Davie Chapters, dormant, evinced signs of returning life by forwarding $15 to the G.H.P., with a request to be permitted to resume work.

He recommended recognition of the Grand Chapter of Victoria.

The Deputy Grand High Priest who represented North Carolina at the General Grand Chapter did not put in a bill of expenses.

"I would beg the Grand Chapter, however, to appropriate a sum equal to the amount of said expenses for the continued payment of the tuition fees of Lulu Porter at the Greensboro Normal College.

"Last year in accordance with a recommendation of Past Grand High Priest Liddell we did not continue this appropriation. In my opinion a more appropriate expenditure could not be made, and I am heartily in favor of this Grand Chapter selecting some bright young girl from the Oxford Orphan Asylum, and giving her a full education at this college, and as soon as she has completed the course, selecting another, permitting the young lady to understand that the Grand Chapter of North Carolina considers her as its ward and under its particular care and protection until her education is completed."

Past Grand King E. S. Martin, for an address on the "History of Capitular Masonry in North Carolina" was tendered the thanks of Grand Chapter by a rising vote.

M. E. Companion Southgate, who was the assiduous chairman of the Semi-Centennial Committee and did so much to collate the historical facts, presented his six-

teenth report on Correspondence. Although he apologises for its defects at the close, they are not apparent to the reader who can only observe the same standard of excellence as formerly. Canada had not reached him. Under Delaware he says of the P. M. degree :

"We think it a harmless appendage and is used mostly as a diversion and a kind of sauce to amuse and entertain "the boys." Let it stay."

On physical perfection in the Chapter he is something of a sceptic. He is of the opinion that the loss of a foot and the substitution of an artistic appliance should not be a bar to admission. To our thinking, the opening of the door to an artificial foot would in a very short time lead to the entry of the peg leg, for fashion it how you may it is that and nothing else. One wooden leg inside would in due time be argument for the admission of two. No, we believe that the perfect man as defined in the Ancient Charges was intended to apply to Ancient Craft Masonry throughout. The fact of the applicant being a Master Mason in good standing is of course contended, but then every applicant is the same—yet he must submit to the ordeal of the ballot. The accident that deprives a Master Mason of a limb also deprives him of the right to advancement just as it would deprive him of the right to initiation if it happened prior to that event.

Martin S. Willard, Wilmington, Grand High Priest.

Horace H. Munson, Wilmington, Grand Secretary.

Ohio.

Chapters, 149 ; members, 15,136.

A net increase of 485 is Ohio's proud record for the year. The eighty-second annual Convocation "convened in the Masonic Cathedral" at Cincinnati on the 28th of September, 1898, with a very large attendance. Past Grand High Priest Bromwell voiced Cincinnati's cordial welcome :

"Its Eden Park will furnish you, in its natural and acquired

beauties, a counterpart of that Garden of Eden in which the serpent first tempted our Mother Eve to disobey the commands of God. But unlike its namesake, our Garden of Eden contains no snakes or serpents to beguile the innocent or tempt the unwary. The only snakes we keep in Cincinnati are those you will find in the cages at our Zoo, or those that are found in the bottom of the bottles which our friends from Kentucky send to us for our undoing. Should you visit our Zoo for the purpose of looking upon its many attractions, you will find a living example of the wonderful work that has been wrought in the rough ashlar of mankind by the tools of civilization. There you will find the type of man in his original state in the monkey quarters, and upon your return to this hall you may look around upon this refined and intelligent assembly to see him as the perfect ashlar fitted for the builder's use."

M. E. Comp. Graff. M. Acklin acknowledged the greeting and then addressed his companions of Grand Chapter opening with the inevitable reference to the conflict with Spain.

"It was a fitting ending of the nineteenth century that the young and vigorous nation of the new world should be the impregnable rock upon which the nation representing the mediæval superstition and barbarity of the old world should be wrecked."

He started his year by an endeavor to find out the condition of each subordinate and urging it to activity. He assigned to twenty-two companions, one hundred and five Chapters to inspect, and seventy-five visits were made at a cost of $150.44, but the G.H.P. deemed it money well spent. Some of the Chapters visited had never before seen an inspecting officer within their portals.

He made an earnest appeal on behalf of the Masonic Home.

"I cannot too much emphasize the fact that its embarrassment will be our embarrassment, and its prosperity will be our prosperity."

Mechanicsburg Chapter, U.D., returned its dispensation and certificates were authorized for those who had received degrees therein.

Under the head of "Distinguished Masons" he incidentally refers to the General Grand High Priest

and President McKinley, and adds this patriotic tribute:

"The Grand Chapter of Ohio is proud of these, her children. She is justly proud of them, but oh, how our nerves tingle and how the blood leaps and courses through our veins, as we remember that other Mason, the brave New England Commodore, who sailed out in the Pacific Ocean, cut the cable, and then receiving no cautionary instructions, went about his duty of terminating war in the way war ought to be terminated. What charming simplicity of manner, what irresistible earnestness of purpose he showed. God bless him as a noble specimen of American manhood and American Freemasonry."

The Dons were also much "struck" by that "charming simplicity."

He gave a number of decisions but they were mainly of local interest. He recommended that the jewels formerly used by Grand Chapter be suitably framed and placed in the Masonic Home. Old timers that are not likely to cost anything for their keep.

On the evening of the first day of Grand Chapter, an enthusiastic reception was tendered to M. E. Comp. Reuben C. Lemmon of Ohio, General Grand High Priest.

A very interesting report of the condition of the Masonic Home is furnished. It is a noble institution, well and economically managed, but like others similar, finds it hard to make both ends meet.

Amount on hand July 31, 1897	$ 931 32	
Receipts during the year	17,007 45	
		17,938 77
Amount of orders issued during the year		19,425 07
Leaving deficit in General Fund		$ 1,486 30

There are 77 inmates and from the report of the superintendent, it is gathered that they are well cared for, but the sinews of war it seems are necessary.

"You will notice from our Financial Statement that it will be necessary to borrow funds for the payment of our July and August bills. This is to be regretted. Our income should be sufficient to pay all expenses as they arise, with something over for needed improvements. Cannot the Grand Lodge be induced to give us a

per capita assessment of 50 cents? This amount, added to that contributed from other sources, would enable us to conduct our Home in a way to meet the wishes and expectations of the Craft and make such additions as are advisable."

Under peculiarly trying circumstances the veteran Companion S. Stacker Williams furnishes an extremely interesting report on Correspondence, although not as lengthy as heretofore.

"We made an excuse last year of sickness, which prevented our furnishing our usual Chapter on history. We are compelled to make a greater complaint this year than last. We were struck with paralysis on October 26th, 1897, and in a few days thereafter we were sentenced to serve a term in the State Legislature. We had partially recovered from the paralysis, when we had a severe attack of rheumatism, which hangs on relentlessly."

For the bodily afflictions which have visited our worthy Companion he has our sincere sympathy, but that they should be aggravated by a term in the Legislature is enough to bring tears to the eyes of his host of well-wishers.

Referring under Canada to Grand Z. Walsh's labours he says:

"As far as was convenient he visited weak Chapters. He was energetic in his endeavors to put life in some of the weak Chapters. It must have been a pleasure to him to meet a live, active Chapter occasionally. He may visit the active Chapters another year and thus be paid for so dull a time this year."

"He expressed the hope that there may be formed a Grand Chapter of the whole of the Dominion of Canada, but we wait a while for this—too large."

He gives the reporter credit for qualifications that are denied him by other reviewers.

"We have another very able Report on Correspondence by Comp. George J. Bennett. It is painstaking and courteous, argues a question without giving offence, and has many other good qualities. He gives us for 1896 four pages for fraternal review. He divides it between us and the proceedings. The main question with him is the Past Master's Degree."

We put our questions in good faith and not to make fun of the thing, but fear that he is of the opinion that we are in love with the degree. Really we do not think it worth the wind we have spent on it. But the same may be said of many other things."

It is our earnest prayer that the coming year will see Companion Williams restored to his old time vigour.

Brenton D. Babcock, Cleveland, Grand High Priest.
Charles C. Kiefer, Urbana, Grand Secretary.

Oregon.

Chapters, 26; members, 1295.

The loss in membership recorded in the previous year was fully made up in this, and Grand High Priest L. N. Roney was able to congratulate the thirty-eighth Convocation held at Portland, June 13, '98, on "a very gratifying increase in membership."

Outside of this and one or two ordinary announcements the address from the chair was devoid of interest.

"Companions, I regret that my business engagements during the past year have been such as to deprive me of the pleasure of personally visiting each Chapter in the jurisdiction. While I have been unable to do this, I assure you that I am pleased with the report of our prosperity as a Craft, and my interest in the Royal Fraternity has not in the least diminished."

"As it was in the beginning," etc.

The committee's appreciation of the G.H.P.'s official zeal was subsequently crystallized in the following lines:

"We beg to extend our congratulations to our Most Excellent Grand High Priest upon his successful administration of our affairs for the past Masonic year."

The "Ritual" Committee reported in favour of that authorized by the General Grand Chapter.

The G. H. P. had been asked whether a Chapter could, by resolution, pay its High Priest $3.00 a night for regular meetings, and he had replied with a single negative. The committee referring to this added:

"There is no law to prohibit a Chapter from paying its High Priest $3.00, or any other sum, for his services; but for any Chapter to do so would be to establish a bad precedent, would be poor policy, and should not be encouraged."

Comp. Hodson presents the report on Correspondence and we may start out with saying that on many features of debate in which he is interested his views are ours. To Comp. Pillans, who is an anti-cipher advocate and who characteristically remarked that the female innovation must have been introduced in a State where printed rituals were used, he rejoins:

"We know some states that use printed rituals that don't use female voices in conferring degrees, and we don't think they will get in the way of it, either."

Comp. Laughlin, of Arkansas commented on the "absurdity of requiring a candidate to select his mark before he knows anything about the other degrees, and Comp. Hodson replies:

"We know our memory is short, but if there is a word in any of the subsequent degrees giving the candidate any additional instruction which would enable him to more intelligently choose a mark, we never heard it. The only absurdity about the matter is in having a rule and not living up to it. As a practical fact, the mark is of but little importance, but if it is the law to adopt and record one, then live up to it."

To a ruling that a candidate for the Chapter degrees with a cork leg was all right, Comp. Hodson had remarked:

"Which was approved. Next year there may be a case where both legs and an arm or two are missing; wonder if they will "fully concur" in such a case."

Later on, in a pleasant chat with Comp. Long, he exhibits that phase of good nature which so often crops up in his reports. By good nature we mean that he is willing to sacrifice his expressed opinion, as above, in order to agree with a companion.

"This landmark was adopted long, long ago, when Masonry was entirely 'operative.' Such Masons as Brother Long and myself had not yet entered into the minds of the wisest of the fraternity. But when the change was made, at a later date, whereby Masonry became almost entirely speculative, only such parts of the ancient laws as were applicable to the changed conditions remained binding upon the fraternity, and now that there is no such thing as operative Masonry in existence, the laws made for its government are either entirely abrogated or changed to meet

the new conditions. If this 'landmark' is literally in force to-day, no one can take the Fellow Craft degree until he has served full seven years as an apprentice, and we think even Brother Long will admit that the 'society has progressed' until they now receive the second degree after the lapse of one lunar month. We believe in adhering to the old rule so far as it applies to profanes, but after the apprentice has been bound to us a perfect youth, we can well afford to overlook an accidental maiming that does not hinder his compliance with our ceremonies."

The Minnesota correspondent having taken exception to Canada's manner of criticising that jurisdiction's treatment of delinquent companions, Comp. Hodson rises to remark:

"We do not believe any Masonic writer should employ sarcasm and ridicule to the point of being rude or non-fraternal, but some things cannot be justly dealt with without showing just how ridiculous they are, and we are not much in favor of condoning errors even if it brings the perpetrators up in their true light. That is one of the important uses of the Correspondent."

Companion Hodson hits the nail squarely on the head every time. It is a most enjoyable report all through, and our only regret is that Canada is not included.

H. S. Strange, Oregon City, Grand High Priest.

Jas. F. Robinson, Eugene, Grand Secretary.

Pennsylvania.

Chapters, 121; members, 16,973.

Quarterly communications were held on March 4th, June 3rd, September 2nd and December 2nd, and the Annual Grand Communication on December 27th, 1897. At the former meetings a great deal of work is disposed of which under other circumstances would protract the annual gathering.

At the Quarterly in September for instance, the Grand Secretary's annual report is submitted, which showed an increase of 534 in the membership in 1896. At the December Quarterly the Finance Committee's report is presented, and an interesting document it is.

The frontispiece to the printed volume of proceedings is a photo engraving of the "Office of the M. E.

Grand High Priest," a handsome and luxuriously furnished apartment on which we enviously gazed for a long time and marvelled how any ordinary companion could live up to its elegance. Nor until we struck the Finance Committee's report was the mystery revealed. There under the head of "Expenditures" were two lines which made everything clear.

Expenses of M. E. Grand High Priest.....	$2,000 00
Rent	1,500 00

A portrait of M. E. Comp. Richard M. Johnson also accompanies the volume, and if appearance goes for anything he is in every way worthy to occupy and adorn the apartment.

The receipts were $8,974.78. Balance with treasurer, $1,234.26, and $20,000 invested in bonds bearing four per cent.

At the Annual Communication on the 27th December, after the opening, the Grand Secretary made the following interesting announcement:

"Through the courtesy of Past Grand High Priest, M. E. Companion Harrison Dingman, of Washington, D.C., I have received from Mr. John Allen Miller a certificate issued by Philadelphia Union Mark Lodge, No. 1, to Jacob Kline, and dated ninth day of September, A. L., 5812. This appears of value as confirming the minutes of Grand Lodge of that date, and it was duly acknowledged. The certificate has been framed, and hangs in the office of the Grand Secretary."

M. E. Comp. Johnson evidently realized what a presiding officer should be when he accepted the position.

"I have zealously labored to establish uniformity and correctness in the work, and to induce the officers and members of the subordinate Chapters, to attend their meetings regularly and use their utmost endeavors to increase their membership."

His visitations were frequent and he not only inspected the working of the Chapters, but where necessary instructed the companions and conferred the degrees himself.

"The membership in Capitular Masonry in this Jurisdiction

has been increased to some extent over that of the preceding year, but is not yet what it should be.

The finances of Grand Chapter are in excellent condition, having been able to pay all expenses, including the usual donation of $500 to the Masonic Home, and leaving a respectable balance."

A very fine picture of the exterior of the Pennsylvania Masonic Home is given.

The talented committee of five companions who are entrusted with the Correspondence have combined to furnish a most interested report for the benefit of their companions. M. E. Comp. Matthias H. Henderson, as before, has Canada under his special eye. He had before him the proceedings for 1897, and writes eulogestically of M. E. Comp. J. Ross Robertson.

"The Grand Z.'s address is of more than local interest. It contains so much that may be read with profit by those beyond the borders of Canada, that we will make more extended extracts from it than we usually do from such documents."

To the Grand Z.'s contention that there should be less change in the personnel Chapter officers, he replies thus:

"We believe in rotation in all offices except those of Treasurer and Secretary. Where an officer, and especially a High Priest, is re-elected year after year, it comes to be regarded that he has a prescriptive right to the place, and other companions, especially younger ones, feeling that they have no chance for preferment, lose interest, and when that is lacking the doom of the Chapter is sealed. That is one extreme. The other is when the officers are changed every year, and just as the High Priest is well settled in his seat and becomes accustomed to his duties, he steps aside and another takes his place, who, in his turn, must learn. If a man has good stuff in him he is a better High Priest the second year than he was the first, and we think he should have the opportunity to show it. We believe that every High Priest who has proved himself capable and efficient should receive the endorsement of one re-election."

He quotes that portion of our introductory remarks regarding the Past Master's degree and says:

"We presume Comp. B. means to say, "if it is permitted to exist in the Chapter it will have an unpleasant time of it." Unless we have been mistaken in our understanding of the action in

Canada, the Degree has only been transferred from the Chapter to the Lodge. We have not understood that our Canadian friends have abolished it. We have such high regard for it in Pennsylvania that it will exist here as long as Masonry exists, which, we expect, will be for some time. All of our writing about it has not been against it, as a degree, but against the improper use to which it has been put."

The degree has not been transferred to the Lodge companion because it has always been there under the name of "Installed Master," and is conferred upon a brother elected to and seated in the east as Worshipful Master of his lodge and in the presence of Past Masters only, who for the time being constitute a "Board of Installed Masters." He becomes a Past Master on the expiration of his term of office and the installation of his successor. The degree known as the Past Master and which was conferred under Chapter authority as a prerequisite to the Royal Arch degree has been eliminated, the curriculum now embracing the Mark, Most Excellent and Royal Arch.

The possibilities for tom-foolery and horseplay furnished by the degree have been taken advantage of to such an extent that for many years it has been a blot and reproach. The fact that it was open to so many of the younger members of the Craft who from lack of knowledge failed to distinguish, has been a hurt and menace to the dignity which the genuine Past Master's position demanded. Of the latter were hundreds, not belonging to the Royal Craft but to whom for the reason stated, the mere mention of the degree was repugnant in the extreme, and their influence was invariably directed to discouraging any idea of advancement. Even with the funny element omitted these brethren could never be made to understand why young brethren should be seated in the oriental chair and given a title that in the ordinary course of events they never would otherwise attain, and herein they regarded it as a burlesque.

These and many other cogent arguments against its retention, as well as its traditional claims to antiquity and the probabilities of differences of opinion with sis-

ter jurisdictions, were all weighed and considered before final action. Those who were surprised at the unanimity with which the reform was received by Grand Chapter are none the less gratified at the absence after three years' trial of even a single expression of a desire to have it restored. On the contrary, the evidences are manifest that its abolition has done good.

"Comp. Bennett's present report is fully as good as his first, which we consider high praise. He opposes public installations, and has well expressed opinions on other interesting topics."

. . . . .

"In the last two years we have found fault with the mechanical work on the proceedings of Canada. Last year we said the book did not look as if a proof-reader had ever seen it, and we doubt if one ever did. Comp. B., alluding to this, says we directed a strong rebuke at Canada's printer, thus laying all the responsibility on that individual. In Pennsylvania we assist the printer by giving our proofs a final revision."

. . . . .

"We notice a great improvement in Canada this year in that respect, and hope it will continue. The typography of the book is not perfect, however. We have a grievance of a personal nature. Whether it is the fault of Comp. Bennett or his printer, they may settle between themselves. The fact remains that the error exists. Our name appears spelled 'H. H. Henderson.' We acknowledge to two 'H's,' but disclaim any right to further alliteration. If this is the fault of the printer, Comp. Bennett will please kick him, and hereafter revise his proof and see that we appear with one 'M.' and two 'H's.'"

If we could have had that opportunity of a final revision, all would be well; but, Companion H., when the printer happens to be working fifty miles away, it is not always easy to see that the revises are corrected. This year we have him at our elbow and have secured an extra heavy pair of boots for use in case that M. is not restored.

Although our limit is reached we cannot close without extracting from the committee's terse conclusion to a most enjoyable and instructive review:

"Is it not true of us that we 'pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy and faith?' Can we not with justice say to our-

selves, 'these ought we to have done, and not to leave the other undone.' We are under conviction that the non-essentials, the minor matters of the letter of the law, concern us more than its spirit, and that we neglect the broad and glorious truths taught in the Sublime Degree. Then, too, there are historical questions of value to be discussed, which, when illumined by the light of fraternal investigation, would be of inestimable value to the Craft.

"No matter with what sprightliness and good humor, or with what gravity and insistence, we may comment on the topics of 'dependent membership,' 'cubes as ballots,' 'the actual presence of the warrant,' 'uniformity of ritual,' 'dummies or substitutes,' *et id omne genus*, they are worn thread-bare as subjects for the reportorial pen.

"Would it not be well, then, to adopt the statistical table as the *omnium gatherum* for all facts of interest to the Craft, relegate the time-worn topics, which have engaged our attention for so long, to an honored seclusion, and embody in future reports those 'weightier matters of the law,' the sublime teachings of the summit and perfection of Ancient Craft Masonry?"

Richard M. Johnson, Philadelphia, Grand High Priest.

Charles Cary, Philadelphia, Grand Secretary.

Quebec.

Chapters 11; members 527.

M. E. Comp. John B. Tressider presided over the twenty-first annual Convocation, held in the Chapter Hall of the Masonic Temple, Montreal, January 25th, 1898. Opening his address he refers to the great event of last year:

"The year just ended has been an important one in the history of the great British Empire, of which we Canadians form an important part. In June last, together with Britons the world over, we celebrated the Diamond Jubilee of Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen. As Masons, we are taught to revere the sovereign of our land, and not only in this capacity did we heartily join in that celebration, but we tendered our homage to the daughter of a Grand Master as well as the mother of one, and the patroness of all the charitable associations of our Great Fraternity in the mother land. The four Chapters in the city of Montreal united with the rest of the Craft in brilliantly illuminating the Masonic Temple and the double Triangle of the Royal Arch evinced its desire to share in the universal rejoicings."

He rebukes the secretaries of the private Chapters for dilatoriness, and his remarks might well be applied elsewhere.

"With reference to the returns, it is my duty to state that both Grand Scribe E. and Grand Treasurer are subjected to considerable annoyance and delay in completing their respective reports, by the neglect or tardiness of the Scribes of a number of the Subordinate Chapters, who seem to think that if they have their returns in the hands of the Grand Scribe E. the day preceeding the annual convocation of Grand Chapter, or in some cases on the very day of the annual meeting, that they are doing all that is required, this is wrong."

Referring to his visitations, he said:

"I fully realize that official visitations and a closer relationship between the Grand and Subordinate Chapters are productive of much good, nevertheless those I have been enabled to make were full of interest to me and those Grand officers who accompanied me."

He thus acknowledges a little fraternal kindness:

"Courteous permission was received from the Most Excellent the Grand Z of the Grand Chapter of Canada for Carnarvon Chapter, to receive and act upon an application of a brother who had removed to this jurisdiction and had not resided here the necessary length of time."

Among the commissions issued by him was one to R. E. Comp. D. F. MacWatt, of Barrie, as Grand Representative of Quebec, near the Grand Chapter of Canada.

The reports of the Grand Superintendents made an interesting resume of the work of those officers.

The Grand Scribe E, M. E. Comp. Whyte, reported a net increase of 12, and that the library was progressing.

The following recommendation of the Committee on the Address was adopted.

"With reference to Grand Representatives, your Committee would suggest that any companion holding a commission from a sister Grand Body near this one, who may be absent for three consecutive convocations of Grand Chapter without giving sufficient reason therefor, shall be reported to the Grand Chapter he represents."

On one of the "In Memorian" pages the following is observed "Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons of Canada (in Ontario)." The "in Ontario" properly applies to the Grand Lodge, but as Grand Chapter's jurisdiction embraces Manitoba, British Columbia and the North-West Territories until they establish Grand Chapters of their own, the "in Ontario" is premature.

M. E. Comp. E. T. D. Chambers is again the welcome reviewer. He quotes the Grand Z, Canada 1897, in the matter of selection of officers, and the Committees report dealing with several other leading features of the address.

He had made some remarks touching the actions and expressions of certain public men across the line towards British institutions. The Texan reviewer took exception to it. He replies:

"His notice of the latter is generally speaking very pleasant, and perhaps we should overlook his somewhat gratuitous remarks that a paragraph of our's "should have had no place in Masonic literature," for after all it is only an exression of individual opinion, and does not our good companion himself say "¡where we have expressed opinions, they are our's and we do not ask anybody to adopt them?" Certainly there are many of Companion Terrell's fellow-countrymen, who in their reports of Foreign Correspondence, have agreed with what we wrote of the "studied affronts" to the Empire of which Canada forms a portion, on the part of American public men, whom they knew, as well as we, to have been "talking to the gallery." And if it is Companion Terrell's opinion that while American Masonry may properly teach attachment to the land of one's birth or adoption, that of Canada should not do the same for Canadian Masons, why of course he is entitled to it.

We assure Companion Terrell of our high personal esteem for his Grand Chapter and for himself, and of our sincere admiration and respect, not only for the Masons but for the entire people of the United States, outside of the few professional tail twisters and their aiders and abettors. That Companion Terrell's fellow-countrymen have only to be in trouble to receive the undoubted sympathy of the British and Canadian people has recently been made abundantly clear. Blood is thicker than water at all times."

B. Tooke, Montreal, Grand Z.
Will H. Whyte, Montreal, Grand Scribe E.

Rhode Island.

Chapters, 10; members, 2,601.

Among the Grand Chapters which have this year celebrated their centennial anniversary, Rhode Island stands out prominently. Reading from the interesting historical address delivered by that erudite Mason M. E. Comp. Rev. Dr. Rugg, it is gathered that it is nearly if not the oldest Grand Chapter, and had among its pioneers some of the most eminent Craftsmen on the continent, not the least of whom was Thomas Smith Webb, whose fine portrait precedes the address in the proceedings. For the benefit of our Companions we extract a few paragraphs:

"The Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Rhode Island entered its life March 12, 1798. It was on that date, just one hundred years ago, that the authorized representatives of Providence Chapter met together and took formal action for the establishment of this Grand Body. They met in Masons Hall, now the Board of Trade building, in Providence, then a city of less than 7,000 population."

. . . . . .

"At the beginning of the year 1798 probably the whole number of Royal Arch Masons in the jurisdiction was not more than fifty; but none the less was the governing organization formed in accordance with all proper forms and limitations."

. . . . . .

"It may of right claim priority, I think, among sister Grand Chapters in America, as being the first independent organization, constituted to exercise governing authority over Royal Arch Masons, which has succeeded in maintaining its existence without any break from the first until now."

. . . . . .

"At the annual Convocation, held in Providence, December 24, 1799, the record states that Thomas S. Webb was present and presided as Grand High Priest, *pro tem.* At this time Webb had taken up his residence in Providence, and the effect of his presence was soon to be felt in all the Bodies of the jurisdiction in which he had established his home."

. . . . . .

"It may be mentioned that Webb continued to hold the office of Grand High Priest, by repeated elections, for the next eleven years, until 1815, when he removed from the State. In

all these years he administered the affairs of Royal Arch Masonry in this jurisdiction with characteristic energy and ability."

. . . . . .

"Webb was a masterful force in Freemasonry—an active and a potent influence in every branch of the Craft with which he was identified; but he never abused the power which he wielded; nor did he practice the arts of a charlatan. He was the great Masonic ritualist of his time, and the work which he did in formulating ceremonies and adapting legends and lessons, to make them more effective than hitherto they had been, is by no means to his discredit. I do not think that he introduced radical changes into the Royal Arch degree; but, undoubtedly, his handiwork is seen in the modifications made about one hundred years ago in the working of the Most Excellent Master's degree, and in that of Mark Master Mason. To him also must be ascribed the responsibility of uniting the degrees of Mark Master, Past Master and Most Excellent Master with the Royal Arch degree, so as to form the American system of Capitular Freemasonry."

. . . . . .

"It may be added, to make this account complete, that Webb was born in Boston, October 30, 1771; that he was initiated into Freemasonry at Keene, N. H., in November, 1792; that he was made a Royal Arch Mason, as a sojourner, in Harmony Chapter, Philadelphia, which claims to be the mother of the Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania, May 18, 1796. The following year we find him at Albany, N. Y., a member of Temple Chapter of that city, and, soon after, the head of the organization. In the year 1797 he published the first edition of his 'Monitor,' which has made his name known throughout the Masonic world."

. . . . . .

"A good deal more of study and search will be required to settle the questions now in dispute among Masonic writers, pertaining to the origin of the Royal Arch degree, the source of its being, and the method and lines of its development.

"Some things, however, are clearly evident. For instance, it may be stated as a proposition, resting on conclusive evidence, that the Royal Arch degree was not recognized in any distinctive form until a number of years after the Revival of 1717. Suggestive reference to the degree is found in a work by Dr. Fifield D'Assigney, printed in Dublin, Ireland, in the year 1743. D'Assigney refers to a certain class of members in the Masonic Fraternity, who had 'passed the Chair,' and who had received special light and preferment. Craftsmen belonging to this class he styles Royal Arch Masons. The evidence is cumulative that this classification was made about the middle of the eighteenth century, at which time the degree was being occasionally conferred in different parts of Great Britain and also in America.

"The first known record of the conferring of the Royal Arch

degree is that found in the 'Minute Book' of the Fredericksburg Lodge, Fredericksburg, Va., under date of December 22, 1753, declaring that on the evening named, three Craftsmen, whose names are given, passed through the ceremonies then attaching to Royal Arch Masonry. According to no less an authority than Bro. W. J. Hughan, this is the earliest record we have of the conferring of the Royal Arch degree anywhere. But while it is pleasant to claim this priority, on the written record, and to fix so early a date when the degree was worked, we should stultify ourselves asintelligent Masons if we affirmed that there, at Fredericksburg, in Virginia, Royal Arch Masonry had its birth. In the nature of things such could not have been the fact. The reasonable presumption is that the Royal Arch degree was known and conferred in other parts of America before the year 1753, and that it was brought to this country by English Masons."

The one hundredth annual Convocation on March 8th, 1898, was held at Providence. Canada's envoy, M. E. Comp. W. R. Greene, Grand Secretary, being among the Grand Representatives present.

Grand High Priest John F. Oldham's address was confined to a record of his year's duties, to which he seemed devoted.

A resolution was adopted providing that the annual per capita tax be fixed at 15 cents, and the tax on exaltations $3.00.

The Centennial Committee reported *inter alia* that a bronze medal commemorative of the occasion had been struck and were for sale at one dollar each.

The celebration was held on the 12th March. Among the distinguished visitors was M. E. Comp. John W. Ruhland, of Nova Scotia.

There was a special Convocation at which M. E. Comp. Rugg's historical address was delivered, followed in the evening by a banquet which was a veritable feast of reason, and from the blue points and green turtle down to the nuts and cigars, all went merry as a marriage bell, winding up with the time-honored "Auld Lang Syne."

M. E. Comp. Ruggs' report on Correspondence, unlike the general run, takes up the topics which find favour with the controversial reporter and deals with them in his own inimitable style:

"'What is the cause,' says one of these writers, 'of such a condition of apathy and inactivity as now exists? There *is* a cause for every effect. What is the cause of the indifference and lack of interest on the part of companions of the Chapters?' There are a good many reasons, no doubt, why sometimes there is a want of life and prosperity in Masonic organizations. Some of the causes are temporary, and are likely soon to be remedied; others are more deep-seated, and should be carefully diagnosed in order that some means may be found of reviving an interest and bringing in a new era of prosperity. In our judgment, one principal cause of the lack of interest which prevails in some quarters is the want of ability and of preparation on the part of the officers for an intelligent rendering of the work. Incompetent officers in any Masonic body will soon bring it to an unsatisfactory, if not dormant, condition. Then again, too much is attempted often in the working of the degrees, and companions are held for long hours, to engage in, or look upon a ceremony, which, though it may have many points of interest, becomes, in the long drawn out representation, monotonous and wearisome."

. . . . . .

"We have seen many a Masonic body in the hands of officers who were utterly unable, from one cause or another, to render the ritual so as to make it intelligent and instructive to the candidate, or interesting to the onlookers. Under the system of rotation which prevails so largely in electing the officers of Masonic bodies, it often happens that an incompetent brother or companion plods along year after year, in what is supposed to be an ascending way of honor, but to his own discomfort, and to the annoyance of those with whom he is associated in the body over which he presides, or in which he holds an important office. Because a man is a good fellow, or devotedly attached to the Institution, is certainly no sufficient reason for placing him in a conspicuous place, in which, being unfitted for its duties, he can but bring upon himself mortification, and hold back the Body from a desired activity and progress. Put the right men into official places, and there are no degrees anywhere in the Masonic system capable of being rendered with more of interest and satisfaction to candidates, and to lookers-on, than the degrees which are included in the Capitular system."

Arthur H. Armington, Providence, Grand High Priest.

W. R. Greene, Providence, Grand Secretary.

South Carolina.

Chapters, 18; members, 590.

The proceedings of two annual Convocations within one volume is unusual and accounts for the non-receipt

of those for '97 at an earlier date. The regrettable illness of the Grand Secretary was the primary reason and a pardonable spasm of economy on the part of the G.H.P., who discerned a saving in incorporating the two years under one cover was the second. Both convocations were held in the city of Charleston on the 9th February, 1897, and 15th February, 1898, respectively. At the former, Grand High Priest J. T. R. Barron presided. He is optomistic and has a good opinion of the membership.

"I do not predict a 'boom,' but feel justified in saying to you that we are experiencing a healthy growth. I do not think the "higher degrees" are a detriment to Capitular Masonry in South Carolina, for we are sustained and supported by enthusiastic workers for the sake of the beautiful historical and symbolic teachings of our Royal Art, who do not look upon the Chapter as a stepping stone to the Commandery and Shrine."

Notwithstanding all this two charters were ordered to be surrendered and a third was given a year to make a better showing. The application of a fourth to change its place of meeting was acceded to and its dues were remitted.

"Tidings from the Craft" was adopted as the official organ.

M. E. Companion H. C. Moses, Grand High Priest, presided at the eighty-seventh annual Convocation. Opening his address he touchingly said:

"When my esteemed predecessor, so universally beloved in this Grand Jurisdiction, turned over to me the 'Signet of Truth,' worn by every Grand High Priest of this State, my heart swelled with emotion and tears came to my eyes, for it brought back to my mind the form and figure of my cherished father, who twenty-eight years ago was the first Grand High Priest to wear this emblem, it having been presented to the Grand Chapter during his term of office.

It was he who brought me from 'darkness to light' and taught me all the beautiful lessons of Masonry."

He issued but four dispensations and was not bothered for any decisions.

He was enthusiastic over his visit to General Grand

Chapter and the banquet of the hospitable Marylanders.

"It was a dream—a fairy tale from the Arabian Nights."

"Each guest with his menu card a little satchet in which was a silver ring, with the the Royal Arch emblem engraved upon the top, and on the sides were engraved 1797-1897. I value mine so highly that I shall see that it is transmitted from generation to generation."

He evidently means to stay on the surface for some time.

The continued illness of R. E. Comp. Albert E. Fugle necessitated his retirement from the Grand Secretaryship, which is assumed by M. E. Comp. J. T. Barron, who also took over the cares of the Correspondence department. He prepared within three weeks a readable pamphlet of 68 pages, in which Canada for '97 is generously accorded three.

He expresses disappointment at the absence of North Carolina's representative. Discussing Grand Z. Robertson's address he says:

"We think if more presiding officers would follow his example and 'hew to the line,' that the general condition of the Craft would be improved. It is folly to shut our eyes to our weakness, and to create a false satisfaction and security. Companion Robertson's address was not written to please the guild and challenge the admiration of foreign jurisdictions; but, if we understand it, he thought only of presenting the real condition of the Craft in Canada to the companions of that jurisdiction. And right nobly did he succeed. For independent thought, fearless speech, and pure English, it is a model."

While deeply regretting the retirement of Companion Fugle whose restoration to health we hope to hear of in the next volume, we welcome Comp. Barron who under adverse circumstances presents an admirable report.

F. T. Wilhite, Anderson, Grand High Priest.

J. T. Barron, Columbia, Grand Secretary.

South Dakota.

Chapters, 27 ; members, 1,456.

The expressive features of Grand High Priest Samuel J. Coyne greet the reader as he opens the volume, recounting the proceedings of the ninth annual Convocation held at Sioux Falls, June 16th, 1898, and he was good natured enough to treat his companions to an address, remarkable for brevity.

He discreetly declined to grant a petition for a new Chapter because the clause in the recommendation from the nearest Chapter "that it will not injuriously affect any other Chapter" was stricken out.

Pilgrim Chapter delinquent will be dealt with by the G.H.P. and its charter arrested by him if it does not come to time.

The Grand Treasurer's report showed a balance of $1,298.83.

The Constitution as revised was adopted.

M. E. Comp. Louis G. Levoy, who for several years has presided at the Correspondence desk, iudicates that the report presented with this volume will be his last. This decision will be much regretted not only by his companions of South Dakota, but by those of other jurisdictions who have enjoyed a "corresponding" acquaintance with him.

He reviews 43 jurisdictions, three of them the second time, but Canada had not reached him. He thus argues in favour of the actual presence of the charter:

"We have always understood that a Lodge was a constitutional number of Masons assembled with a Holy Bible, square and compass, and a charter or warrant authorizing them to work.

The ancient regulations may not specify that the charter must be present, yet it is always placed in the W. M. hands at installation, as a special charge and is his authority for opening and holding his lodge. It is the best evidence (the Grand Lodge records not being at his place) that the lodge is legally warranted to meet as a lodge and do work or transact business ; in other words, it is a warrant of power ; if it is mislaid or destroyed, it must be replaced usually by a copy from the Grand Lodge records by dispensation of the Grand Master, if therefore, the Grand Lodge

record is sufficient; why is a charter necessary at all, or why does the Master hasten to get a duplicate in case of loss, and why does the Grand Master authorize the Grand Secretary to issue same?"

Geo. A. West, Brookings, Grand High Priest.

Geo. A. Pettigrew, Flandreau, Grand Secretary.

Tennessee.

Chapters, 68; members, 2,775.

M. E. Comp. Isaac J. Thurman was Grand High Priest when Grand Chapter met in annual Convocation at Nashville on January 24th, 1898, and if his portrait is a faithful one he looked it. A recital of official acts comprised his address. He granted to applicants fifteen dispensations and refused two, and made seven visits to chapters. He declined to appoint Grand Representatives to "Constituent Grand Chapters" because, like St. Paul, Tennessee had put away childish things, and concluded by expressing gratitude for his elevation.

The Committee on Dispensations recommended the issue of charters to Pulaski Chapter 149, and to Saulsbury Chapter. How did Pulaski get that number?

The Jurisprudence Committee's report, which was was adopted, contained the following clause, on which we congratulate Tennessee.

"Regarding the exchange of Grand Representatives, we state that this jurisdiction in 1895 withdrew our representatives near other Grand Bodies. This Grand Body does not seem to be in thorough touch with sister jurisdictions in this matter, a small number alone agreeing to our view, therefore that we may be known to be as broad, fraternal and lovingly disposed as the foremost, we offer the following:

Resolved, That the resolutions in proceedings of 1895, concerning discontinuance of Grand Representatives near other Grand Bodies be rescinded and that the Grand High Priest-elect proceed to fill any vacancies in those places which have or may in future occur."

"While the lamp holds out to burn, etc."

The following deserves to have been recorded in letters of gold, but it wasn't.

"In consideration of the fact that this Grand Chapter is unable to meet all of its outstanding financial obligations, and desiring to have it make a clear record this year, the Grand Secretary donated from his salary the sum of one hundred and fifty dollars to be applied to the liquidation of the debt."

Companion Ingersoll furnishes as usual a delightful report on Correspondence. Noticing the absence from Arkansas' Grand Chapter of 27 representatives of subordinate chapters he humorously remarks:

"A subordinate with no member with zeal enough to attend a Grand Convocation where there are mileage and per diem and "refreshments" is surely moribund and a probable candidate for the coffin and the pall."

Of Canada he says:

"Nearer and nearer every year come the companions of Canada to the Royal Arch Masons of the United States, and closer and closer grow the bonds of acquaintance and affection which hold us in common sympathy and labor; and no proceedings come to our table evincing more care, attention, and zeal, on the part of officers, representatives, and companions than those from our big sister just over the lakes."

The following will be read with interest and will doubtless contribute to the elevation of Tennessee and its gifted correspondent in the estimation of the Canadian companions.

"Moreover, this Correspondent may be permitted to cherish added respect for this Grand Jurisdiction, since the present Grand Z. resides at Ingersoll, a city founded in revolutionary days by a grand-uncle, whose loyalty to his king caused him to separate from the rest of the family in the old Bay State and find a congenial home in what the since Revolution has been the fairest jewel in Britain's colonial diadem. If now the Grand Chapter of Canada would only drop its "Z. H. & J." designation of its Grand officers, and, like its sisters of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, adopt the American method of designation, we should grow into still closer resemblance, and the Grand Chapter of Canada and of Tennessee would be, as Mr. Lincoln said about the two glasses of water, 'as much alike as any two peas I ever saw.'"

He pays a tribute to the Grand Z. Robertson and speaks kindly of the reporter.

"The exhaustive report of Companion Bennett covers nearly

the entire Royal Arch world, and is worthy of the big Grand Chapter it represents. He concludes his spicy comments upon our report of 1896 with this bold dash :

'Levity apart, however, there is one glaring fault with the report : there is too little of it.'

"Well, perhaps when the present 'wave of prosperity' passes by, we shall give back to our esteemed Canuck Companion at least enough ; and that is as good as feast."

Caswell A. Goodloe, Alamo, Grand High Priest.

Wm. A. Clendening, Nashville, Grand Secretary.

Texas.

Chapters 133 ; members 6,307.

In the Masonic Temple City of Houston, on the 7th December, 1897, the forty-eight annual Convocation was held.

The year showed a net gain of 102 in the membership. Notwithstanding that 40 of the Chapters were reported as doing no work.

The Grand High Priest issued one dispensation for a new Chapter at Carthage. He granted three to instal officers publicly.

Of decisions and rulings he was prolific, some four pages being devoted to questions and his replies thereto.

Tribute is paid to the Grand Secretary for getting out the proceedings in record time, a week after the close of Grand Chapter. He also has a deserved meed of praise for the Correspondence Chairman.

In matters of finance he recommended "a conservative and more definite policy.

"Our gross annual receipts are something less than $5,000. Of this amount 33 per cent goes to maintain the Grand Secretary's office, 23 per cent. to meet the demands of the Committee on Work and delegates' expenses, 14 per cent. for printing, leaving 30 per cent. for all other current expenses, the needs of a rainy day, and for sweet charity's sake.

The Grand Visitors for the seven districts furnished interesting reports of their labours for the year.

To Canada Comp. J. L. Terrell gives of his space

with willing hand. Quoting the Grand Z on the subject of the Past Master, he says :

"How would it do for the Grand Chapter of Texas to further show her independence and *sovereignty* by casting off the Past Master's Degree ? Its chief lesson is taught, though not so forcibly, in the E. A. Degree."

He is not enamoured of the Grand Superintendent's reports. What will he do then with his own Grand Visitors ?

"Fifty-five pages are taken up in reports of Grand Superintendents, and we feel like we have wasted our time in reading them, and if it was any of our business we would feel like suggesting that these reports be made directly to the Grand Z when he could cull them, and use in his report such parts as he deemed proper."

In a former report discussing the status of an accepted candidate, we remarked, "the brother having once been balloted for and accepted, possesses claims which he did not have as an applicant." Companion Terrell seizes upon this with an eagerness truly remarkable, and this is how he delivers himself :

"Why not say that he is entitled to all the rights and privileges of a Royal Arch Mason by virtue of his election ?

Companion Bennett agrees that a black ball is an objection, but he insists that this objection must be made at a certain time, and the member is barred by the statute of limitation if he fails to object at a certain time, and in a specific manner.

We deny that—"the brother having once been balloted for and accepted, possesses claims which he did not have as a applicant," and we maintain that he is still an applicant or a candidate until he has received the Degree. The ballot box is only a convenient method of designating approval of, or objection to, the Degrees being conferred upon an applicant, but surely it is not, or should not, be the only method by which a simple objection will prevent the Degrees being conferred. It reminds me of the boy in the debating society who insisted that the question read thus : "The educated class should be restricted to the ballot box."

All very true no doubt. Nothing there that we do not agree with. Nevertheless, we maintain our position, although when the remark was first penned it

was more in a sentimental sense than otherwise. The applicant cannot come forward and present himself for the degrees, the accepted brother can, provided of course that he is accompanied by the necessary kopecks. In the case of a brother recommended for the degrees, every member of the Chapter is apprised of the applicants' name, etc., ample time being given for consideration and action. Having been declared accepted and eligible, there should be something more than the simple "I object," to bar the way of advancement. The nature of the objection should be communicated to one or more in authority, and it is safe to assume that the interests of the Chapter will not suffer either way. However, if Companion Terrell will insist on "the simple objection" in Texas, all we have to say is we will not object. By the way, is it included among the ancient usages? If so, we shall have to surrender forthwith. There is sound sense in this which he addresses to Illinois.

"Here, we venture to suggest to the Grand High Priest that one great cause of the apathy that too often prevails is the fact that the Lodge is too much a guardian of the Chapter. There is but little business outside of the "routine," and when we do enter upon a business enterprise it is simply as an adjunct to the Lodge. Let the Chapter act a little more independently. Let it get up and "shake off the dust" and inaugurate some enterprise of its own; exercise more charity, look after the sick, and individualize itself: then the members are not likely to lapse into that unfortunate state of lethargy that puts the Chapter at peace with "itself and all the rest of mankind."

He notes the discussion on physical perfection between Comps. Drummond and Long, and gets in this pertinent poser.

"It occurs to the writer that the only difference between these wise men is that one wants the candidate to be able to do all Masonic work in his own person, while the other holds that the candidate in certain work may be aided by mechanical appliances. The latter theory leads to this argument: One man having a cork leg can have the degrees, while his neighbor with one leg, and probably a better man, but not financially able to purchase the cork appliance, is not permitted to enter the threshold—unless, perchance, he can borrow his neighbor's cork for a few hours. Would that let him in Companion D.?

We are aware that Companion Drummond states that he has

not *said* that physical defects may be remedied by mechanical contrivances, but all the same he argues on that side of the case."

T H Haynie, Lampasas, Grand High Priest.
Geo. Lopas, Jr., Houston, Grand Secrtary.

Vermont.

Chapters 27; members 2863.

At Burlington in leafy June, 1898, Grand Chapter met in eighty-first annual Convocation, M. E. Comp. Eugene S. Weston, G.H.P, presiding.

He found the condition of the Craft to be fairly good. Nearly every Chapter was visited.

"But few of the chapters are reported as doing no work during the year. I hope they are only resting, and that another year will bring better reports from them. Better do no work than to perform work that shall damage our grand Masonic edifice. We are not building for the present year alone, but for all time. If the chapters are dormant they should be aroused, but if their lack of work has been because they are careful of the material furnished, then they should be commended."

Nearly ten pages he devotes to the fraternal dead. He reported having procured a Grand High Priest's seal, and recommended an official jewel for the Grand Lecturer.

A Chapter at Whitehall, N.Y., was reported for having taken material from Vermont. The case was referred to New York's ruler, who gave assurance that the offence would not be repeated.

Among his re-issue of commissions was one for Vermont's representative near Canada, R. E. Comp. J. B. Nixon.

A case of a Chapter "on wheels" came up in a petition from Skitchewang Chapter for permission to hold its meetings for the years 1899 and 1900 at Ludlow instead of Springfield, where it is now located. The committee to whom it was referred recommended the temporary removal as the companions at Springfield offered no objection.

The G. H. P. had something to say about the ritual and was not enamoured of the General Grand Chapter's product:

"For the past few years we have been changing the work of the P. M. degree to correspond with that of the General Grand Chapter until, now, there is practically nothing left of the degree, and if possible it is more of a farce than when in the form as practiced in this jurisdiction several years ago. Up to the meeting of the General Grand Chapter, their ritual had been adopted only by the Grand Chapters of Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Indian Territory, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, North Carolina, Oregon, and South Carolina. So that there is not a universal use of it that would warrant us at present in adopting it."

Dealing with the matter of Grand Lecturer, the G. H. P. says:

"The Grand Lecturer of the Grand Chapter must be a man of ability, and one whose time is of some value at home. Either we must pay him something near what his labors are worth, or else make use of inferior material."

He thereupon recommends as a set off to the ability and time, a salary of fifty dollars per year.

The Grand Chapter of Victoria was recognized.

M. E. Comp. Marsh O. Perkins furnishes the report on Correspondence, in which Canada is not. The review throughout is most entertaining.

Alabama had decided that clergymen should not in future be privileged to receive the degrees gratuitously, and also was considering a resolution to increase the minimum fee. He remarks:

"Better in our opinion to have abolished the class distinction, and thereby in all probability have obviated an apparent necessity for disturbing the 'prices of admission.'"

Canada was criticised severely for reducing the minimum fee. The above is a case in which the opposite course catches it. But he agrees with Alabama that a cork leg is admissible.

Companion Harrison, of Delaware, commenting on a Vermont decision touching the right of visitation by a

foreign companion not possessing all the preliminary degrees required by U. S. regulation, had said:

"This would be a little hard on a companion from Canada with whom the Grand Chapter of Vermont holds fraternal relations. It will be remembered that the Grand Chapter of Canada has eliminated the P. M, degree."

Companion Perkins replies:

"The Committee on Jurisprudence and Grand Chapter have not yet pronounced as to the decisions, but we will venture to suggest, that there can be no hardship, as such visitors can before admission be invested with the O.·. B.·., in accordance with the usage and custom in various other branches of Masonry."

Orlando W. Sherwin, Woodstock, Grand High Priest.

W. G. Reynolds, Burlington, Grand Secretary.

Virginia.

Chapters, 40; members, 2,676.

"In the name of the 'Royal Brotherhood, the church made free by Love, which is the law of Liberty,' I bid you welcome!

M. E. Comp. John Porter Steffner, G.H.P., thus greeted his companions in opening the ninetieth annual Convocation in the city of Petersburg on the 3rd December, 1897.

The visits by himself and representatives to the various Chapters throughout the year are duly recounted and apparently did much good. Three stagnant Chapters were made active. Two new Chapters are reported and their origin he attributes to the influence of the R. A. Schools of Instruction.

That Virginia is not inclined to relinquish its policy or sovereignity is gathered from the following:

"First, I recommend that this Grand Chapter lay special emphasis upon the fact that its practice is its policy, and that its past history will be venerated and regarded by us as having the force of law. In this I have special reference to the oft broached questions of adopting a printed cypher or ritual and of joining

the General Grand Chapter. These have been acted upon and disposed of, but I deem it advisable for you to emphatically say at this time that they will not be further considered, and thus settle the matter for the benefit of those inventors and iconoclasts who are continually seeking to introduce innovations. We prefer to cling to the old faith. It was good enough for our fathers and should be sufficient for us."

He thus announces the discovery of an old document.

"The fact that within our Grand Jurisdiction exists the oldest record extant of a Royal Arch degree, became known to me during the past official year, and I am persuaded will be information to many of our members."

The following rather unusual expression of opinion came, no doubt, in the nature of a surprise to the reviewer.

"It is my opinion that this report (correspondence) should be most carefully scrutinized before adoption. Last year we failed to actually see it, but by our action adopted it. I believe this report should faithfully reflect the policy, practice and precedents of this Grand Chapter, for when issued in our proceedings it practically means adoption and approval."

A resolution endorsing the above and adopted subsequently is equally out of the common.

The "Cerneau" bugbear came up in a complaint by a Virginia companion that he had been denied admission to a Pennsylvania Chapter "because he refused to take some form of test oath which he did not comprehend, and concerning which his Grand Chapter had never instructed him."

The Grand high Priest wrote at once to Virginia's Representative to make the necessary inquiry. An extract from the latter's reply reveals the situation:

"The Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania and its subordinate Chapters do receive and acknowledge all Royal Arch Masons in good and regular standing, who are able to take the test oath required of all Masons visiting either Chapters or Lodges under the jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter or Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania.

I presume the case you refer to, of a constituent member of the Grand Chapter of Virginia who declined to take the test oath,

must have been a member of the so-called 'Cerneau Rite,' which has been declared *clandestine* by the Grand Lodge and Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania a number of years ago."

Writing again the G.H.P. said:

"The Grand Chapter of Virginia knows nothing of any of the rites or clandestine Masonic bodies to which you refer. It has long ago been established as the fixed policy of this Grand Chapter to avoid any entangling alliances with other elements or warring factions, and strict neutrality has been observed except where the authority of this Grand Chapter has been attempted to be disputed, or an invasion of its jurisdiction has been committed. In other words, we hold to the six degrees embraced in our Capitular system, knowing and being known only as Royal Arch Masons, refusing to be dragged into any discussion or partizanship with any other system, faction or rite, which we have no means of testing."

Six degrees, eh? Virginia is well supplied under its "fixed policy."

Thereupon the Representative turned over the correspondence to the G.H.P. of Pennsylvania and advised him of Virginia as to his action. The former then wrote under seal.

"Any Royal Arch Mason who desires to visit a Chapter in this jurisdiction must take the prescribed test oath. If he is a member of the Cerneau Rite and refuses to take the test oath, he cannot be admitted. The edict to which you refer will not be revoked or amended."

Then Virginia's Grand High Priest went into the edict business himself, and issued a document with an explanatory and ponderous preamble and the following wind-up:

"And it is further ordered that the representatives to and from the Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania shall at once return their commissions to the Grand Secretary from whence received.

And the High Priests of Virginia are hereby required to deny admittance to their several Chapters, under all circumstances or conditions, to a Royal Arch Mason of the Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania."

It will be gathered from this that relations were rather strained between these old jurisdictions. The

Grand High Priest then quotes Past Grand Masters Ingersoll of Tennessee, and Rice of Indiana, in support of his position and closes the matter thus :

"I trust this Grand Chapter will affirm the two following propositions :

1st. A denial of one of us is a denial of all.

2d. The Tiler's oath is, by custom and usage at least, so closely identified with the landmarks that it is not in the power of man or men to amend it.

In conclusion, I have only to add that the eyes of the Masonic world are upon you, and your decision will mark an era in the national history of Freemasonry."

The Committee on the Address, however, ruthlessly tumbled the pretty fabric erected by the Grand High Priest :

"As there is no discrimination against Masons of this or any other particular jurisdiction, but the test is applicable to all persons, whether from Pennsylvania or elsewhere, who may make application for admission into the Chapters within the jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania, no offence could have been intended to Virginia Masons as such, and, in our judgment, there is no just cause for severing our friendly relations with that Grand jurisdiction.

We assume that when the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania declared that it had been "Authentatively ascertained and officially declared," that all bodies within its jurisdiction derived from the so-called "Cerneau Rite," were "clandestine," it was after due enquiry and upon satisfactory evidence, and there was presented to them the anomaly of "two classes of Master Masons" in their Chapters.

We appreciate the high purpose of our most excellent High Priest to maintain the dignity of Virginia Masonry, and demand that due respect and all of the legitimate rights of Masonry should be accorded her members wherever they should be, and believe that in issuing the edict of July 1, 1897, he was actuated by the lofty and commendable sentiment and conviction that it was demanded by a due regard to his official position, and his high esteem for the members of the Craft in Virginia, and their Masonic rights.

Your committee feel constrained, however, without any reflection whatever upon the M. Ex. Grand High Priest, to recommend that the edict of July 1, 1897, be rescinded, annulled and set aside, and that our fraternal relations with the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Pennsylvania be renewed."

Comp, Chas. A. Nesbitt, presented a ninety page

Report on Correspondence which, it is presumed passed the keen scrutiny of the Council. There is a noticeable absence of comment. He fraternally notices Canada for 1896 in two pages mostly extracts.

Comp. Nesbitt's concluding words are significant nor did they occasion surprise, under the circumstances. We would have said good bye, also.

"We confess to a feeling of sadness in saying to all good-bye."

E. Louis Ide Staunton, Grand High Priest.
Jas. P. Blanks Petersburg, Grand Secretary.

West Virginia.

Chapters, 23 ; members, 1,401.

At the twenty-seventh annual Convocation held in the City of Charleston on the 8th Nov., 1897, Grand High Priest McCahon was unable to be present and his duties as presiding officer were undertaken by the Grand King, John C. Riheldaffer. The absent one's address was read by the Grand Secretary, M. E. Comp. Odell S. Long, who a few weeks afterwards was called to his long home. That West Virginia and Royal Arch Masonry has suffered a sad and sudden bereavement none can deny who have been familiar with his name and doings for so many years. He was the first Grand Secretary, and continued such for fourteen years, when his companions elevated him to the position of Grand High Priest. He resumed the office in 1891 and held it until his lamented death.

In the Grand Lodge he had attained to the proud position of Grand Master, and was also Past Grand Commander of the Knights Templars. At the time of his death he was Lieut.-Commander of the Supreme Council of the A. and A. Scottish Rite of the Southern Jurisdiction.

"We shall meet, but we shall miss him ;"

The G. H. P. declined to grant a dispensation to

elect a successor to a secretary of a Chapter who had been tried for gross un-Masonic conduct and indefinitely suspended, on the ground that there was a possibility that the offender might be able to establish his innocence on appeal, and in that case he would be restored to the privileges he had hitherto enjoyed.

Here is a case in which "the simple objection" is presented in a phase that goes a long way to establish the contention that the nature of the interposition should be something more than the unexplained objection:

"The High Priest of Davis Chapter No. 22 wrote that after the election of a candidate, and before degrees had been conferred upon him, objection was interposed by a member of the Chapter. Subsequently, but without withdrawing his objection, the objecting companion died. Did the effect of the objection thereby cease, and was the Chapter at liberty to proceed to confer degrees upon the candidate? I replied that the force of the objection died with the companion interposing it and that that objection could no longer be regarded as a bar to the conferring of the degrees."

While the objecting companion remained in the flesh and held to his "simple objection," that "balloted for and accepted" brother could not get the degrees. The moment, however, he departs and takes his objection with him, that moment the barrier to the brother's advancement is removed. And yet the "simple objection" may have covered something of a very serious character just as it might have been used to gratify a little personal malice.

Like most of the other Grand Chapters this year, the Committee on Grievances and Appeals had nothing before it.

There was a gain of 108 in the membership for the twelve months.

John C. Riheldaffer, Wheeling, Grand High Priest

John W. Morris, Wheeling, Grand Secretary *(pro tem.)*

Wisconsin.

Chapters, 73; Members, 5974.

Grand High Priest, A. J. Wallace at the forty-eighth annual Convocation held at Milwaukee on the 15th February, 1898, had little to report. His duties were apparently light and his address was in keeping. As Canada's representative we congratulate him upon his harmonious year.

The Grand Secretary directed attention to the fact that the veteran Grand Sentinel way lying in a city hospital suffering from serious injury, the result of a fall. A committee was appointed to visit him.

The serious illness of Past Grand High Priest, T. S. Hayhurst, was also the subject of a sympathetic resolution. The M. E. Companion died ten days later.

Among the amendments to the constitution submitted for approval was one which provided that no application be received from a brother until he shall have been six months a Master Mason.

The Committee on Jurisprudence recommended that this amendment be not adopted. M. E. Comp. W. C. Swain, presented a minority report in which he said:

"This Grand Chapter has already condemned the practice of soliciting Master Masons to enter its doors, and in every degree in Masonry requires its applicants to assert that they come of their own free will and accord. I believe membership in the fraternity is a privilege to be sought, and it is lowering our dignity to seek recruits. It is a well known fact that there is now a prevalent tendency to place petitions in the hands of Master Masons as soon as they have signed the by-laws of the Lodge, and there are instances where it has been done before they have received the Master's degree. We should, and do, welcome those who understandingly seek our doors; but he must have an exceptionally quick intellect who can digest and assimilate the lessons of the lodge as he passes through its ceremonies. Six months is not a long probation, and I heartily approve the proposed amendment."

Another was aimed at the ballot, the amendment seeking to provide for a four-fifths favorable vote in place of a unanimous ballot. Comp. Swain is vigorous in opposition.

"The rule of unanimity is universal, and has been for so long as to become a landmark. It is true, that the proposed change has been recently made by the Grand Lodge, but this is as yet a not sufficiently tried experiment, and there is not another jurisdiction on this continent where it exists. There are many obvious reasons to urge against it."

The committees' recommendations, however, were in both cases upheld by Grand Chapter.

A resolution to reduce the per capita to forty cents was opposed by the Finance Committee on good business grounds, but Grand Chapter supported the amendment.

Past Grand High Priest Pryor was presented with a jewel.

Comp. Swain's artistic autograph is appended to the Report on Correspondence, and we pray it may be seen there for many more years. Noticing Canada for '97 he says:

"Comp. Geo. J. Bennett again gives a very full report on Correspondence, in which he uses pen as well as scissors, unless a pretty typewriter girl takes place of pen.

He is vigorous in defence of the abolition of P. M. degree in Canada. Also against any regulation which prevents a Canada companion who has not received it, being precluded from visiting one of our Chapters."

Now, what put that "typewriter girl" idea into his head; somebody has been "giving us away," that's sure. He thinks, because, as our good Companion Blalock expresses it; we are "a new hand at the bellows" that we must necessarily be young and giddy. Canada has not yet gone into the portrait business, but if ever it does, and it is permitted to include the counterfeit presentment of the Correspondence Chairman the shock to Companion Swain will be simply appalling.

On the P. M. degree elimination and the effect it will have on Canadian companions visiting other jurisdictions he quotes us at length, and we are pleased to reproduce his answering remarks.

"On this same subject, he copies with approval our statement of the Wisconsin regulation. As we understand it, that is also a

general regulation in this country—that any visitor from abroad, coming from bodies with which we hold fraternal relations, while for obvious reasons he cannot visit our Chapters until he has received the intermediate degrees, he may have them communicated to him free of expense. A visitor should expect to conform to the laws of the jurisdiction in which he visits. So, if we should visit Canada, we should not consider the fact that any member of the Chapter had not received the P. M. Degree, would preclude our sitting with him."

He is also with us on dependent membership. He could not agree with Canada's ruler that the Royal Arch is "summit of all there is in Masonry," and in our innocence and greed for information asked him to let us know what was the summit. Here is how he enlightens us:

"He asks us, "What is the summit of Masonry?" A difficult question to answer, and one beyond our capacity. He asks it, because we demurred to Comp. Robertson's saying the Royal Arch is the summit of all there is in Masonry. If he had put it in the words in which we assure our candidates, "You have now arrived at the summit of Ancient Craft Masonry," we should have said nothing. But we should say one had not arrived at the summit of all Masonry, until he had learned all there is to be known about it. And we are unable to point out any one who has got there."

Our dislike to public installations he treats cavalierly although the desire to know the reason for doing so was sincere.

"We do not propose to come down with any sledge-hammer arguments, because we do not consider it a matter of importance. We simply see no objection to it. We have seen a good many public installations, and have never seen them convey material for ridicule. We admit the ceremonies seem monotonous and tiresome, when given in public, and the younger members of the Masons' families are waiting impatiently for the social intercourse to follow. But there are always present those interested, to whom the ceremonies are impressive."

We are now much in the position of the man that asked for bread and got something else.

We are loath to part with Comp. Swain's report but our limit is defined. It is replete with good things, and to the companions of Wisconsin must be an annual feast. He concludes with General Grand Chapter and a brief reference to the Baltimore junketing.

"We were going to read up the description of Aladdin's palace, but as he had an old brass lamp instead of electricity, we dismiss the idea, and tell our companions to think of the most gorgeous descriptions they have ever seen, and then multiply by two."

Franck C. Jackman, West Superior, Grand High Priest.

John W. Laflin, Milwaukee, Grand Secretary.

PROCEEDINGS REVIEWED.

Alabama	1897	Montana	1898
Arizona	1897	Nebraska	1897
Arkansas	1897	Nevada	1898
Calfornia	1897	New Brunswick	1897
Colorado	1898	New Hampshire	1897
Connecticut	1898	New Jersey	1898
Delaware	1897	New York	1898
District of Columbia	1897	North Carolina	1898
Florida	1898	Ohio	1898
Georgia	1898	Oregon	1898
Illinois	1897	Pennsylvania	1897
Indian Territory	1897-97	Qnebec	1898
Iowa	1898	Rhode Island	1898
Kansas	1898	South Carolina	1897-98
Kentucky	1897	South Dakota	1898
Louisiana	1898	Tennessee	1898
Maine	1899-98	Texas	1897
Maryland	1897	Vermont	1898
Michigan	1898	Virginia	1897
Minnesota	1897	West Virginia	1897
Missouri	1898	Wisconsin	1898

Fraternally submitted,

GEO. J. BENNETT,

Chairman.

STATISTICS.

As compiled by M. E. Comp, J. H. Drummond, of Maine.

GRAND CHAPTERS.	Members.	Exaltations.	Admissions & Restorations.	Dismissions.	Expulsions.	Suspensions.	Deaths.
Alabama	1,023	72	36	20	0	57	11
Arizona	214	29	2	12	0	16	1
Arkansas	1,641	138	54	53	2	111	36
California	5,405	309	89	65	1	116	102
Canada	5,304	431	50	126	0	126	62
Colorado	2,486	104	55	54	1	83	25
Connecticut	5,521	280	11	22	0	64	99
Delaware	647	33	0	3	1	0	6
District of Columbia	2,199	128	40	34	0	70	56
Florida	598	56	10	20	6	20	7
Georgia	3,149	282	52	105	0	73	52
Illinois	16,798	824	171	267	8	371	229
Indiana	6,561	398	97	137	4	117	103
Indian Territory	680	82	18	21	0	30	9
Iowa	7,358	459	142	196	5	67	82
Kansas	5,073	259	56	126	6	145	53
Kentucky	3,001	258	59	107	2	94	64
Louisiana	1,090	90	9	16	0	33	25
Maine	6,205	309	24	60	1	68	86
Maryland	1,861	155	23	37	1	16	27
Massachusetts	15,132	928	87	107	0	100	232
Michigan	13,239	660	86	200	6	192	164
Minnesota	4,776	275	58	123	3	122	66
Mississippi	1,415	88	27	20	0	24	27
Missouri	6,786	355	142	132	0	239	93
Montana	757	62	23	23	1	17	11
Nebraska	2,967	84	51	47	1	135	32
Nevada	287	9	6	5	1	4	5
New Brunswick	401	23	1	10	0	0	6
New Hampshire	3,568	149	53	29	0	13	61
New Jersey	3,390	229	27	43	0	70	56
New York	20,332	1,390	252	196	12	759	279
North Carolina	703	46	6	15	0	9	13
North Dakota	813	40	3	9	0	14	5
Nova Scotia	728	51	6	21	0	22	14
Ohio	14,646	897	357	204	8	473	188
Oregon	1,258	65	18	20	1	31	14
Pennsylvania	16,973	1,009	93	114	0	217	237
Quebec	527	40	2	19	0	4	7
Rhode Island	2,549	157	5	37	0	0	44
South Carolina	590	43	8	6	0	12	11
South Dakota	1,441	70	18	75	1	42	13
Tennessee	2,775	162	39	101	1	33	53
Texas	6,307	403	120	183	8	133	98
Vermont	2,783	154	7	22	2	22	54
Virginia	2,676	290	82	102	3	53	42
Washington	1,131	50	36	39	0	64	20
West Virginia	1,461	151	23	14	2	37	13
Wisconsin	5,974	322	60	91	1	126	83
Gen. Gr. Chapter	1,499	109	24	42	1	23	22
	214,698	13,008	2,718	3,550	90	4,607	3,101

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